

Thank you for the opportunity to input to this consultation.

I am responding on behalf of the Department for the Economy (DfE) in Northern Ireland (NI). Please note this response is at an official level only as we do not presently have Ministers or a Northern Ireland Executive in post. Thus the following comments are not prejudicial to the views that may be taken by incoming Ministers or an Executive.

At an official level DfE and policy areas interacting with CMA functions are content with the proposed updated prioritisation principles. We are pleased these principles are applicable to all parts of the UK yet in doing so recognise the need, at times, for bespoke approaches across the 4 nations. This is particularly important in NI given our devolution history and the application of unique post EU-exit trading and regulatory relationships as a result of the Windsor Framework which has an influence on our economic and consumer landscape.

We have particularly strong engagement with the CMA in relation to the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020 (via the OIM), and into the NI based CMA team. We recognise the publication of separate guidance on the discharge of CMA functions relating to these Acts and the application of the prioritisation principles there. We look forward to continued engagement with these teams as they continue to set priorities and take forward specific projects of relevance to NI.

At this stage we have no further comment to make on this matter but look forward to continuing engagement between our organisations.

GB & EU Trade

Department for the Economy¹

¹ The response provided by DfE is provided at an official level only by the department in absence of a Minister in post, and so should not be treated as, or be seen as providing a policy position or view on a behalf of any incoming Minister.