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Sarah Cardell – Chief Executive
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Dear Sarah and Marcus,

Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill – Roadmap to the digital markets regime

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) does important work protecting consumers and supporting competition across the UK. The CMA's ability to deliver these objectives will be enhanced by powers in the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill which seeks to drive innovation, grow the economy and deliver better outcomes for consumers.

As you know, Part 1 of the Bill establishes new, more effective tools to address the unique barriers to competition in digital markets, allowing the CMA, through the Digital Markets Unit (DMU), to proactively drive more dynamic markets and ensure the most powerful tech firms treat consumers and business fairly. We thank the CMA for its work in preparing for the new digital markets regime and for its helpful engagement with government to date.

The powers in the Bill have been carefully designed. The CMA Board will retain ultimate responsibility for all decisions in the regime and will be directly accountable to Parliament. At the same time, the CMA will have the flexibility to design its interventions so that they are carefully targeted, avoid unnecessary burdens on business, and can respond as technologies and markets evolve.

We are writing to ask that the CMA publishes on its website, a roadmap which sets out its plans and proposed timelines to implement the new digital markets regime. This could include indicative timelines for milestones such as consulting on and publishing guidance, and the launch of investigations for Strategic Market Status (SMS). In addition, we would appreciate if the CMA could share how it envisages working with stakeholders, including firms that are designated with SMS.

We recognise the Bill has yet to receive Royal Assent and this outline will necessarily be high level and provisional as the CMA will need to continue to ensure its plans reflect the final provisions of the Act. We also acknowledge that the CMA will consult on and publish full guidance in due course. It would nonetheless be of great use to Parliamentarians scrutinising the Bill, as well as stakeholders preparing for the new regime. We would like to thank you and your team for your continued work on this.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Hollinrake MP

Saqib Bhatti MP