Please find below our response to the consultation on the CMA's information gathering powers. This response is from Automate App Limited / PetrolPrices and reflects our opinion as a publisher of retail fuel prices to both consumers and businesses in the UK.

1. Do respondents agree with our proposed approach that ongoing information requests should cover: (i) supermarkets; (ii) motorway retailers with five or more sites: and (iii) other retailers with 80 or more PFS sites across their group? If not, who do you believe we should be requesting information from?

We believe the current reporting request regime should continue as this covers a significant part of the market and gives a good sense of market trends.

2. Do respondents agree with our proposal for retailers to submit monitoring information to us on a quarterly basis rather than more frequently? If not, please detail your preferred reporting frequency and why.

We agree with quarterly reporting.

3. Do respondents agree that data required for a specific month or quarter should be provided by the 15th day of the second month following that period? If not, please explain your preferred timing of submissions and why.

We agree that the data should be supplied by the 15th of the second month, along with the report published by the CMA 14 days after that.

4. Are there any other issues or information the CMA should include in the guidance we will publish on exercising our information gathering powers for our motor fuel monitoring function?

The danger is that reporting retail prices and margins alone means the context may be lost. An analysis of other costs for retailers, along with bringing in margin analysis available from other countries and other industries, would be helpful.

5. Do respondents agree that an online portal should be set up and used as a way for retailers to submit data for the road fuel monitoring function? If so, are there any particular features you would like the CMA to consider, if it is developed?

The development of a portal should be developed in line with the Fuel Finder system to avoid duplication of effort.

Andrew Watson

Managing Director