

The Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury

From:
Doug Gurr
Interim Chair

Sarah Cardell
Chief Executive

18 November 2025

Dear Chancellor,

Thank you for your letter. The CMA is committed to making sure markets work as effectively as possible to bear down on the cost of living for people across the whole country.

As well as acting directly to help address cost of living pressures, the CMA has made a number of recommendations to government on how it can ease pressure on household budgets through pro-competitive policy interventions. In that context, we welcome the government's work to implement the FuelFinder scheme, which will improve transparency and price competition for road fuel, and its commitment to act on any recommendations from the CMA's vets market investigation.

We welcome your request that the CMA carries out a study into the private dental care market. We agree that this is an important market that needs to work well for consumers. The CMA has been carrying out initial exploratory work, including engagement with government officials, to understand the merits of work in this area. Building on this, we will be developing a specific proposal to put to our Board, and we will write to you again with an update on the outcome of that discussion.

On public procurement, we appreciate the government's endorsement of our work to date to help promote resilience in the public finances. We are actively supporting the Ministry of Defence in its review of defence contracting, following the Industrial Strategy Defence Sector Plan, and remain keen to do more. This includes our open offer to help tackle bid-rigging in public procurement through the deployment of AI tools and other data science techniques, which we would be keen to discuss with you further.

Yours sincerely,

Doug Gurr
Interim Chair

Sarah Cardell
Chief Executive