

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair, Climate Change, Environment
and Infrastructure Committee
Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

From: Stuart Hudson
Senior Director, Strategy
Communications and Advocacy

20 September 2021

Dear Mr Gruffydd,

Introduction to the Competition and Markets Authority

I am writing to congratulate you on your appointment as Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee and to introduce the work of the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), the UK's lead competition and consumer authority. We work to promote competition for the benefit of consumers. Our role is to make markets work well for consumers, businesses and the economy.

From this year, the CMA will be required to lay its annual plan and annual report in the Welsh Parliament. We are keen to engage with the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee's workplan on areas of interest to our role, and that the Committee is aware of and can engage with CMA work where it falls within its remit.

The CMA has significant experience working in both energy and transport across several of our functions. We have worked with Welsh Government officials providing advice on issues such as bus franchising, partnerships and smart ticketing arrangements, and on aspects of taxi regulation.

Previously we worked on a range of matters in the energy sector, including the market investigation into both retail and wholesale energy markets, and our heat networks market study which helped to guarantee heat network customers are given a comparable level of protection to customers of gas and electricity in the regulated energy sector. We also have further experience of the energy sector through both our mergers work such as SSE Energy Services/OVO Energy as well as regulatory appeals on price controls and code modifications.

Our annual plan¹ set out our commitment to support the transition to a low carbon economy. Recent work on this includes our market study into Electric Vehicle charging², which was recently published. The final report included recommendations to the UK and Welsh Governments which will help to promote strong competition, encourage more investment, and build people's trust in the sector. We are also undertaking work to understand better how consumer protection legislation can be used to tackle false or misleading environmental claims³. We will continue to provide advice and support to all levels of government across the UK on the impact of climate change and sustainability policies on competition and consumers.

We appreciate that the Committee is continuing to develop its workplan. We would be keen to engage with or feed into any areas of the Committee's work that falls within our remit or in sectors where we have experience and expertise.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss any aspect of our work or how we might contribute to yours, as your workplan develops.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Hudson
Senior Director Strategy, Communications and Advocacy
Stuart.Hudson@cma.gov.uk

Cc Simon Harris, CMA Wales Representative

¹ Competition and Markets Authority (2021) Annual Plan 2021-22 [CMA Annual Plan 2021 to 2022 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

² Competition and Markets Authority (2021) Electric Vehicle Charging market study [Final report - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

³ Competition and Markets Authority (2021) [Misleading environmental claims - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)