



Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair
The Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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From: Andrea Coscelli CBE
Chief Executive

Direct line: 020 3738 6286

27 July 2021

Dear Mr Irranca-Davies,

Update on work to establish the Office for the Internal Market (OIM)

Thank you for your letter of 16 July, and congratulations on your appointment as the new Chair of the Senedd's Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

As you stated in your letter, during the fifth Senedd I wrote to your predecessor to outline the CMA's plans to establish a new Office for the Internal Market (OIM). I am able to provide an update on this work.

On 27 May the CMA published draft guidance which provides general advice and information about how it will approach the exercise of its new internal market functions under the Act. In developing the approach set out in the draft guidance, OIM officials have had constructive and helpful engagement with officials in several departments across the UK Government, Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive.

The OIM will monitor and report on how the UK internal market is working and provide non-binding technical and economic advice to all four governments in the UK on the effect of specific regulatory provisions on the UK internal market. Its work will assist governments in understanding how effectively companies are able to sell their products and services across the four nations of the UK, and the impact of regulatory provisions on this, including the impact on competition and consumer choice, for assessment alongside wider policy considerations.

The OIM must lay its annual and five-yearly monitoring reports, and certain reports provided upon request, before each House of Parliament, the Scottish Parliament, Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

The Act provides that the OIM must have regard to the need to act even-handedly in relation to the UK Government and all the devolved administrations, and this is

reflected in the proposed approach to prioritisation of the OIM's discretionary work laid out in the draft guidance.

The draft guidance also provides an overview of the analysis that the OIM expects to undertake, and outlines procedures the OIM will adopt, such as how it expects to receive and manage requests for advice from national authorities and how it will gather information. This includes developing an online interface, which will allow consumers, businesses and other stakeholders to provide intelligence to the OIM about issues relating to the effective operation of the internal market.

The CMA has also published a draft Statement of Policy on the enforcement by the OIM of its information-gathering powers as set out in the Act. The OIM must have regard to this Statement when reaching decisions about what action to take for failure to comply with an information notice.

Consultations on the [draft guidance](#) and [Statement of Policy](#) closed on 22 July and the CMA aims to finalise both documents ahead of launch of the OIM in September.

I welcome your suggestion for engagement with the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee regarding this work and my office will work with the Committee Clerk to arrange a suitable date for this.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Coscelli', written in a cursive style.

Andrea Coscelli CBE
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