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Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

**Lord Callanan**  
Minister for Climate Change and Corporate  
Responsibility

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05 November 2020

Dear Baroness Finlay,

### **United Kingdom Internal Market Bill – House of Lords Committee Stage**

Firstly, let me thank you for your contribution during Committee stage of the United Kingdom Internal Market Bill. I am following up on some points raised, which I hope you find helpful.

During your speech, you questioned how the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) in its role as the Office for the Internal Market (OIM) will be able to command the trust of the devolved administrations and legislatures.

The CMA is a good fit for the OIM for a number of reasons. The CMA is a globally recognised, well-established and experienced body that performs a central role in domestic UK markets, promoting competition and fair markets for the benefit of all UK businesses and consumers. The Government is seeking to build on this reputation, and the significant visibility that the CMA already enjoys among key stakeholders, for the establishment of the OIM.

Although the CMA is a non-ministerial department within the UK Government, the CMA has established positive relationships with all of the UK governments and legislatures and has offices in Edinburgh, Belfast and Cardiff. Lastly, I wish to emphasise that there are significant overlaps in the technical expertise required to deliver the CMA's existing functions and those of the OIM, in particular with regard to competition effects and the economic impacts of regulation. This will mean the OIM is immediately able to deliver effectively, drawing on existing resources in the CMA.

Moreover, the Government has developed bespoke governance arrangements for the OIM, precisely so that all administrations and legislatures will be able to have confidence in its reporting. All governments and legislatures within the UK will be able to request specific reporting according to their areas of competence, and all reporting will be made available simultaneously to all governments and legislatures. Reports and technical advice will be used to support intergovernmental collaboration and cooperation. Finally, and as I have made clear in the House, the devolved administrations will also be consulted on the appointments to the Panel of the Office for the Internal Market (including the person to be appointed to chair the Panel) made by the Secretary of State. This will ensure that panel appointees reflect a range of relevant expertise reflecting the concerns of the whole of the UK.

I thank you again for your contributions to the debate. A copy of this letter will be placed in the Library.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a trailing line, positioned above the name Lord Callanan.

**Lord Callanan**