



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

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Lord Fox
House of Lords
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7 December 2023

Dear Lord Fox,

Thank you for your constructive engagement during the Second Reading of the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill on Tuesday, 5 December.

During the session, I said I would write to you on the role of the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), including its Digital Markets Unit (DMU), in international standards authorities.

Standards are crucial to building the UK's economic prosperity, safeguarding the UK's national security, and protecting the UK's norms and values. The Government strongly supports a multi-stakeholder approach to the development of technical standards, and it will be important that the CMA engages with this process where appropriate. The UK's Plan for Digital Regulation, published in 2021, confirms the importance of considering standards as a complement or alternative to traditional regulation.

You are right to point out that it will be important for the CMA to be informed by the work of international competition authorities when developing its strategy for addressing technology-related competition concerns. The CMA proactively engages with international competition authorities in support of its objectives.

Additionally, the UK has proactively engaged with international partners, including through the G7, leading to the agreement of Shared Policy Objectives during the UK's Presidency in 2021, and further commitments to promote competition and deepen cooperation in digital markets during the 2023 Japanese Presidency.

I will place a copy of this letter in the libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,

Viscount Camrose
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

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