

**Westminster Business Forum policy conference:
Next steps for UK competition policy and regulation**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 16th July 2026

*****Taking place online*****



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted
- 9.05 **Approaches to strengthening the UK competition regime**
Chris Prevett, General Counsel, Competition and Markets Authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Assessing next steps for UK competition policy and market regulation**
assessing the forthcoming Competition Reform Bill | strengthening the CMA's investigatory powers | flexibility in investigations addressing concerns around decision-making timelines | co-ordination of tools and powers for tackling consumer harm | streamlining regulatory processes through the CMA's Market Remedies Regulatory Review | ensuring the effectiveness of merger reviews and competition enforcement in complex markets | expansion of powers over algorithms under the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act 2024 | the role of the CMA Mergers Charter in promoting transparency, consistency, and fairness in reviews | balancing regulatory intervention with operational pressures on smaller firms
Verity Egerton-Doyle, Partner, Linklaters
Stuart Hudson, Partner, Brunswick Group
Jordan Cummins, Director, UK Competitiveness, Confederation of British Industry
Senior representative, markets
Senior representative, SME
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Competition policy and consumer outcomes - ensuring fair, transparent and effective markets**
Dr Stephen McDonald, Head, Economics, Which?
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**
Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted
- 10.55 Break
- 11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.10 **Expectations and potential implications of a pro-growth competition regime**
Aastha Mantri, Director, Economic Insight
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.35 **Practical considerations for enforcement and intervention in consumer markets - supporting business confidence and compliance**
enforcement priorities in consumer-facing markets | alignment between CMA and sector-specific bodies | managing litigation risk and precedent | expectations on businesses to provide fair value and disclosure | assessing the impact of remedies on market dynamics, innovation, and long-term competition | designing interventions that deliver measurable outcomes | civil penalties regime under the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act 2024 | thresholds for administrative enforcement and appeals processes | implications for business compliance strategies | compliance monitoring and enforcement of commitments
Elisa Mariscal, Principal, Cornerstone Research
Senior representative, legal
Senior representative, industry
Senior representative, technology
Senior representative, compliance
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities for consumer and competition policy going forward**
Sarah Adcock, Director, Consumer and Competition Policy, Department for Business and Trade
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Business Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Thomas Howard, Westminster Business Forum