

Classification: **Official**

Dear Sir/Madam

We are acutely aware of the pressures which the funerals industry has faced over the last few months and the ongoing strain in dealing with the number of recent deaths. We also realise that there is still much uncertainty about the future, including the possibility of a second pandemic wave of coronavirus (Covid-19). However, the CMA is required by statute to complete its investigation by 27 March 2021. You will be aware that the CMA has already extended the statutory deadline by the maximum permitted 6 months.

In view of this statutory deadline, and having taken account of the current difficult circumstances, we have decided that, in the interest of all parties, this is the most appropriate time for us to update and publish our [Administrative Timetable](#). If we delay further, this will only reduce the time available for us to hear your views. You will see from the Administrative Timetable that the next key milestone is the publication of the CMA's Provisional Decision report by the end of July/early August. The new timetable is designed to allow sufficient time for the CMA to take full and proper account of such input in its Provisional Decision report. Therefore, we ask for responses to the second batch of Working Papers, which were published on 20 February, to be submitted to us by 12 June. Any further submissions parties wish to make before the Provisional Decision report must be submitted by 19 June 2020.

We appreciate that many parties are still facing significant pressures and uncertainties, so we emphasise that parties will have a further opportunity to make submissions after our Provisional Decision report is published.

Yours faithfully,

Darren Eade

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