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House of Commons
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From: Sarah Cardell
Chief Executive

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Dear Mr Byrne,

Vodafone and Three merger – implications for competition

Thank you for your letter dated 6 February regarding the merger of Vodafone and Three. I appreciate you taking the time to write and set out the work of the Business and Trade Committee on this matter. Thank you also for sharing the transcripts for the Committee's evidence session in October 2023 and the backbench business debate in December 2023, which we followed with interest at the time.

As you will be aware, the CMA takes decisions on mergers independently. On 26 January we announced the launch of our Phase 1 merger inquiry. We will announce our Phase 1 decision by the statutory deadline of 22 March. In January we issued a second invitation to comment (ITC), giving all interested third parties an opportunity to submit views about the proposed merger and the impact it could have on competition in the UK. This followed the preliminary ITC, which ran from 11 October 2023 to 1 November 2023. We have also been gathering evidence from the merging firms and their customers and competitors. The CMA will take into account all evidence available to it when making its decision.

I can confirm that the case team has received the transcripts setting out the evidence discussed at the two sessions. I will be in touch in due course once we have made our decision on whether the duty to refer is met to inform the Committee of the outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah



Sarah Cardell

Chief Executive

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