

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
First Lord of the Treasury and Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

19 October 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to express our concern about proposed changes to the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumer (DMCC) Bill. The undersigned comprise the Digital Competition Expert Panel, commissioned by then Chancellor Philip Hammond, who originally recommended this regulation.

As a panel, we are impressed by the draft legislation. We feel it strikes a careful balance between the interests of the big tech platforms, who will be subject to the regulation, and their users. The proposed regulation is prudently designed to provide a well-evidenced, bespoke and proportionate set of market rules. It has the potential to generate a fairer deal for UK businesses, a boost to UK tech innovation and investment, and important benefits for UK consumers.

We have, however, become aware that you are giving serious consideration to possible changes to the legislation which would severely disrupt this careful balance. This follows extensive lobbying from the big tech platforms. They argue that these changes will deliver more proportionate regulation. We respectfully disagree. Instead, they would allow big tech platforms to escape effective regulation by entangling the regulator in a web of tactical and adversarial litigation and delay. What we need is a UK regulator that can get ahead of competition problems in digital markets and work participatively and nimbly with all interested parties to find effective and proportionate solutions.

In advocating these changes, the big tech platforms have only their own interests at heart. The UK's success as a dynamic centre for tech investment, including the coming wave of AI innovation, will be harmed by the kinds of change to the draft legislation that you are considering. In doing so, we urge you to be mindful of your personal responsibility for the outcome for UK businesses and consumers.

We would be happy to provide our thoughts in more detail.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Jason Furman



Professor Dame Diane Coyle DBE



Professor Amelia Fletcher CBE



Professor Derek McAuley



Professor Philip Marsden