

CMA to open offices in Manchester and Darlington



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More than 200 staff to be located at new Digital Hub in Manchester by 2025

Microeconomics Unit of 25 staff to be established at the government's new Economic Campus in Darlington

CMA's State of Competition project to be expanded to analyse the impact of competition on people on lower incomes

Manchester will be the home of the new Digital Markets Unit (DMU), which has been established to oversee a new regulatory regime for the most powerful digital firms. The DMU's remit is to promote greater competition and innovation and protect consumers and businesses from unfair practices.

Manchester has been chosen because it offers a diverse and highly-skilled labour market as one of the top locations for digital as well as legal, IT and finance roles. The opportunity for the DMU to build links with local universities also made it an attractive destination.

The DMU will form a Digital Hub alongside the Digital Regulation Co-operation Forum (DRCF).

The CMA Board has also approved a proposal to set up a new CMA Microeconomics Unit (MU) to be co-located with the government's new Economic Campus in Darlington. The MU will take on the CMA's existing economic research and evaluation function, produce the annual State of Competition report and carry out research into supply-side reforms to improve productivity.

The CMA's State of Competition project is also being expanded to consider the impact of competition on consumers at different income levels.

The CMA already has nearly 60 staff working in offices in Edinburgh, Belfast and Cardiff, with an ambition to expand in those locations.

The roles in Manchester and Darlington will be a mix of new and existing positions.

CMA Chief Executive Andrea Coscelli said:

Last year I pledged that the CMA would get closer to the needs of people right across the UK. Since then, we have taken action on issues from refunds on package holidays to tackling excessive pricing on key drugs. Now we are going a step further and bringing our own offices and staff closer to more of the people we serve.

Manchester and Darlington will be ideal locations for our teams whether we're ensuring fairness in the tech sector or doing vital research to inform future work.

There are bright and talented people everywhere and we want to do our part to give them the opportunities they deserve.

The CMA will now seek suitable accommodation for approximately 50 CMA staff to be based in Manchester initially.

The ambition is for the CMA office in Manchester to comprise more than 200 colleagues by 2025.

Not all CMA digital roles will have to be based in Manchester and there will be opportunities for other professions to be based there too.

While discussions on the Darlington project are at a very early stage the CMA envisages the MU to be around 25 economists.

Notes to editors

For media enquiries, contact the CMA press office on 020 3738 6460 or press@cma.gov.uk.

More information on the DMU is available on the Digital Markets Unit collection page.

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