



Mr Wes Streeting,
Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care of the United Kingdom,
House of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA

05/12/2023

Dear Mr Streeting,

RE: Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) report: Price inflation and competition in food and grocery manufacturing and supply (including infant formula)

We are writing to follow up on the letter we sent on 9 November 2023 and to request a meeting with you to discuss record high infant formula prices in the UK and appropriate actions to address the crisis of affordability.

You would have seen that the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA)¹ has published a report on *Price inflation and competition in food and grocery manufacturing and supply* which presents an update on the CMA's work looking at competition in food and other groceries, in the context of high price inflation². The CMA investigated 10 product categories, including infant formula. Among other findings, the report reveals that the high inflation of branded infant formula products is not justified by input and production costs, suggesting profiteering by companies. The CMA investigation used First Step's data and we are meeting with them this week to discuss feeding evidence into the next round of investigations.

Given that your party is currently so carefully considering how best to support families struggling to feed their babies, we would like to request a meeting with you to discuss the findings of the CMA report and the actions that we feel should be prioritised³. We would be grateful if you could let us know at your earliest convenience if you would be able to meet with us, either online or in person, to discuss these important issues.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/competition-and-markets-authority>

² Competition and Markets Authority (CMA). Price inflation and competition in food and grocery manufacturing and supply. 29 November 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/price-inflation-and-competition-in-food-and-grocery-manufacturing-and-supply>

³ First Steps Nutrition Trust. Press Release: Government action warranted after watchdog criticises "greedflation" by infant formula brands. 29 November 2023. <https://www.firststepsnutrition.org/news>

Yours sincerely,



Dr Catherine (Katie) Pereira-Kotze

On behalf of First Steps Nutrition Trust and the Baby Feeding Law Group UK, and the following co-signatories:

Anna Taylor, CEO of the Food Foundation

Barbara Crowther, Children's Food Campaign Manager, Sustain

Sabine Goodwin, Director of the Independent Food Aid Network-UK

Baby Feeding Law Group UK Members:

Association of Breastfeeding Mothers (ABM), Association for Improvements in the Maternity Services (AIMS), Baby Milk Action, Best Beginnings, the Breastfeeding Network (BfN), Breastival, Code Monitoring Northern Ireland, the Community Practitioners' and Health Visitors' Association (CPHVA), Doula UK, The Fatherhood Institute, First Steps Nutrition Trust, GP Infant Feeding Network (GPINF), HENRY, Hospital Infant Feeding Network (HIFN), the Human Milk Foundation, Institute of Health Visiting, Lactation Consultants of Great Britain (LCGB), La Leche League GB (LLLGB), Leicester Mamas, Centre for Lactation, Infant Feeding and Translational research (LIFT), Local Infant Feeding Information Board (LIFIB), Midwives Information and Resource Service (MIDIRS), National Breastfeeding Helpline, NCT (National Childbirth Trust), Royal College of Midwives (RCM), Save the Children, UK Association of Milk Banking (UKAMB), Unicef UK Baby Friendly Initiative, Unison, Women's Environmental Network (WEN), World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi) UK.

Independent members: Dr Robert Boyle, Natasha Day, Dr Clare Patton, Dr Ernestine Gheyoh Ndzi.