



LAURA FARRIS MP

Member of Parliament for Newbury

Competition and Markets Authority
The Cabot, 25 Cabot Square
London
E14 4QZ
By Email

31st January 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to you in relation to concerns about fuel prices in West Berkshire. Evidence collated over the last three months shows that petrol prices in my constituency (Newbury) are higher than those in the immediate surrounds. Many of my constituents have raised this matter with me, and not unreasonably, are concerned that there may be potential anti-competitive activity which are keeping prices high.

As an example, I would like to draw your attention to the following prices for fuel. The data was collected from *PetrolPrices* on Tuesday 31st January but is consistent with the picture over the last few months.

Constituency location	Price per litre (pence)
Esso Newbury	149.9p
Sainsburys Newbury	150.9p
Tesco Newbury	150.9p
Co-op Hungerford	153.9p
Shell Hungerford	154.9p

Outside the constituency location	Price per litre (pence)
Sainsburys Calcot	142.9p
Asda Tilehurst	143.7p
Esso Marlborough	145.9p
Jet Wantage	145.9p
Jet Marlborough	146.7p
Tesco Swindon	147.9p
Texaco Basingstoke (Aldermaston Road)	148.9p

As you can see from the tables above, prices are higher in every location in my constituency of Newbury compared with all those in surrounding areas. I am concerned about the reasons for this and would ask for the Competition and Markets Authority to investigate this immediately.

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This has been an ongoing problem and, over the summer, I launched a survey which found local concerns with elevated fuel prices in and around Newbury. I have also raised this in the House of Commons on two occasions and have met with the Energy Minister who advised I raise this directly with you.

With best wishes,

Laura Farris

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