



LAURA FARRIS MP

Member of Parliament for Newbury

Simon Roberts
Chief Executive Officer
Sainsbury's

BY EMAIL

30 October 2023

Dear Simon,

I am writing in relation to fuel prices at your main Superstore in Newbury (Hector's Way, RG14 5AB).

A number of my constituents have written to me over the last year raising the fact that petrol prices across the Newbury area were inexplicably higher than they were in neighbouring areas. As a result of this, I wrote to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) earlier this year to ask them to explore the issue of price differentials (and I have to add, potential price-fixing in certain parts of the country).

As you will no doubt be aware, the CMA published its final report on the [road fuel market study](#) in July 2023. Amongst their recommendations were a new statutory fuel finder scheme, which has been accepted by the Government. And whilst it is under construction, the CMA created its own [temporary fuel price data scheme](#) which I have utilised today.

I set out a snapshot of the findings in relation to Sainsbury's that my office has identified:

	Sainsbury's Newbury	Sainsbury's Wantage	Sainsbury's Calcot
Fuel Price (pence/litre)	155.9	143.9	146.9

As you can see the prices in Newbury are between 6-8% than in two of our nearest neighbouring towns which is disappointing and a source of consistent concern to my constituents.

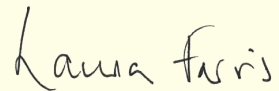
Earlier today the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero wrote to all fuel retailers reiterating your duty to deliver a fair price to consumers. I attach her letter for ease of reference.

I would be grateful if you could reply to me at your earliest convenience explaining why prices are so much higher in the Newbury area and how you will be bringing them down to the level of their neighbours as swiftly as possible.

I am copying this letter to the CMA for their consideration also.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Farris".

Laura Farris MP

Cc: Competition and Markets Authority (CMA)