

NEW COVENT GARDEN MARKET SIX-MONTHS ON: UPDATE ON SECOND SPECIAL REPORT

You approached me recently to ask for a report on progress in developing the Department's policy in relation to New Covent Garden Market since the publication of your Committee's report last year.

The Department's policy remains as set out in Ben Bradshaw's Parliamentary statement on 20 June last year. In the intervening period we have commissioned advice on both financial and technical considerations which are relevant to the future of the Market and will be reporting to Ministers shortly on the results. Lord Whitty has also met Mr Daniel Caspi, Chairman of the Corporation of London's Markets Committee, and further exploratory discussions are taking place between officials on matters of common interest to the Department~ the Corporation and the Covent Garden Market Authority.

We shall be happy to report any firm developments to the Committee as they occur.

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