

WORKSHOP I
CREDIBLE DETERRENCE

Stephen Blake

Senior Director Cartels and Criminal, UK Competition and Markets Authority

Stephen is a Senior Director and Head of the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA)'s Cartels and Criminal Group, which he joined from the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) when the OFT's competition functions passed to the CMA on 1 April 2014. Stephen joined the OFT in 1998 as a competition lawyer in the OFT's Legal Division and spent two-and-a-half years (2002-2004) on secondment to the European Commission's Directorate-General for Competition. From 2005 Stephen held a number of senior positions within the OFT's Cartels and Criminal Enforcement Group before becoming head of that group in April 2013. Stephen has been responsible for overseeing some of the UK's most significant cartel cases, including the *Independent schools* (2006), *Construction* (2009), *Loan products to professional services firms* (2011), *Passenger fuel surcharge* (2012) and *Mercedes dealership* (2013) cases under the Competition Act 1998, as well as leading the *Marine hose* (2008) criminal investigation under the UK Enterprise Act 2002.