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Abstract

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It is important to assess the performance of a competition agency so that we can determine what works and what seems to be problematic in relation to, for example, resourcing or design. However, simple measures of activity are biased and the alternative of benchmarking must assume what is best practice. This means that the evidence base for future improvements is largely missing. In this paper, we examine a peer-review measure of reputation published by GCR. Reputation is important both as a direct measure of performance and because high reputation enhances the agency's influence on the courts, firms, government and consumers. We adopt panel econometric techniques to examine the contribution to competition agency reputation of general national characteristics, and agency budget, institutional design and human resources.