News story: Apple pledges clearer information on iPhone performance

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) raised consumer law concerns with the tech firm last year after finding people were not being warned clearly that their phone's performance could slow down following a 2017 software update designed to manage demands on the battery.

The CMA became concerned that people might have tried to repair their phone or replace it because they weren't aware the software update had caused the handset to slow down.

In addition, people were not able to easily find information about the health of their phone's battery, which can degrade over time.

Since the CMA raised its concerns, Apple had already started to be more up front with iPhone users, but today's announcement locks the firm into formal commitments always to notify people when issuing a planned software update if it is expected to materially change the impact of performance management on their phones.

Apple will also provide easily accessible information about battery health and unexpected shutdowns, along with guidance on how iPhone users can maximise the health of their phone's battery. This could help people improve the performance of their own handset after a planned software update by, for example, changing settings, adopting the low power mode or replacing the battery — rather than resorting to having their phone repaired or replaced. The firm has agreed to do this both for current and future iPhones.

By signing up to undertakings with the CMA, Apple has agreed that it will be bound by them. If it goes on to breach any of the commitments made, the CMA may take action through the courts.

For more information, visit the Apple iPhones consumer protection case page.