

Annex A

'Many thanks for your response to my request, reference FOI10125, copied below. As you state in your response, you:

collect limited information from banks relating to instances where financial crime was a principal driver in their deciding to close accounts

Could you please provide me with the data referred to above, viz data on the number of instances where banks close accounts due to financial crime. Can you please provide this data on an annualised basis going back 10 years. If possible, please provide this data for each of the big four banks, HSBC, Lloyds Banking Group, Barclays and NatWest Group. If this is not possible, please provide the data on an industry wide basis. '

Annex B

Section 44 (Prohibitions on Disclosure)

Section 44(1)(a) of FOIA states that information is absolutely exempt from disclosure if this is prohibited by law. Section 348 of FSMA restricts the FCA from disclosing 'confidential information' it has received in the course of carrying out its public function. FSMA allows exceptions to this in a few specific circumstances, but none of these apply to this request.

Confidential information here is defined as non-public and non-anonymised information involving a person's business or other affairs, which the FCA received in the course of carrying out its public function.

The information you requested is confidential information under this provision. If we disclosed this information, without the provider's consent or the consent of the person the information is about (if different), we would be in breach of section 348 of FSMA. This would be a criminal offence.

In many requests for information under FOIA we have to consider different factors to decide whether disclosing the requested information would be in the public interest or not. For this request, we have an 'absolute' exemption against supplying the information, and so we do not need to make this kind of consideration.