

Annex A

- **Section 12 (Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit)**

FOIA requires us to comply with a request, unless it would be too expensive to do so, as estimated in line with the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

Under these regulations, the cost limit for the FCA is £450, i.e. 18 hours at the rate of £25 per person hour. The regulations allow us to take into account, when estimating the cost of complying with a request, the time spent determining whether we hold the information requested, locating and retrieving it, and extracting the information from the relevant document(s).

To establish all the information that falls within scope of your request would exceed the cost limit. This is because we do not have the information you have requested in a readily extractable format.

In order to provide you with the information you have requested we would be required to manually review approximately 3,000 alerts issued for the period covering 2017 to 2022 in order to ascertain whether they were issued against unauthorised debt advice firms.

We do not divert our resources from our regulatory functions to meet requests under FOIA above the cost limit. While we know this may disappoint you, we are sorry we cannot carry out an exercise to identify the information you have requested.