
FINAL NOTICE

Green Energy Together Limited

25 March 2022

ACTION

1. By an application dated 11 September 2020 ("the Application"), Green Energy Together Limited ("GET" or "the Applicant") applied under section 55A of the Act for Part 4A permission to carry on the regulated activities of:
 - a. Agreeing to carry on a regulated activity;
 - b. Credit Broking
2. The Application is incomplete.
3. The Authority has refused the Application.

SUMMARY OF REASONS

4. By its Warning Notice dated 14 Jan 2022 the Authority gave notice that it proposed to refuse the application and that GET was entitled to make representations to the Authority about the proposed action.
5. As no representations have been received by the Authority from GET within the time allowed by the Warning Notice, the default procedures in paragraph 2.3.2 of the Authority's Decision Procedure and Penalties Manual apply, permitting the Authority to treat the matters referred to in its Warning Notice as undisputed and, accordingly, to give a Decision Notice.

DEFINITIONS

6. The definitions below are used in this Final Notice.

"the Act" means the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000;

"the Application" means the application referred to in paragraph 1 above;

"the Authority" means the body corporate previously known as the Financial Services Authority and renamed on 1 April 2013 as the Financial Conduct Authority;

"SUP" means the Supervision section of the Authority's handbook;

"SYSC" means the Senior Management Arrangements, Systems and Controls section of the Authority's handbook; and

"the Tribunal" means the Upper Tribunal (Tax & Chancery Chamber)

"the Warning Notice" means the warning notice dated 14 Jan 2022 given to the applicant by the Authority.

FACTS AND MATTERS

7. The Application was received by the Authority on 11 September 2020.
8. Further information was requested from GET under section 55U(5) of the Act.
9. On 16 July 2021 the Authority sent an email to GET requesting it submit a Controller form and provide further details on firm-related charges with a deadline of 30 July 2021.
10. No response was received, and as such, on 24 August 2021 the Authority sent a reminder requesting that the missing information be provided by 8 September 2021.
11. On 24 August 2021 the firm acknowledged receipt of the reminder with a holding response stating it would respond. No response was received by 8 September 2021, the Authority sent a reminder on 20 September 2021 requesting that the missing information be provided by 4 October 2021.

12. On 15 October 2021, the Authority called Nick Elbourne on +44 (0)1992 800663 but he was unavailable. The Authority sent an email requesting that the missing information be provided by 22 October 2021. However, no response was received.
13. On 8 November 2021, a further reminder was sent requesting a response by the deadline of 15 November 2021.
14. On 8 November 2021, Mr Elbourne acknowledged receipt stating he had sought advice on the matter. He stated he would expedite the response and would consider withdrawal if no response could be made within that week. No response was received.
15. On 19 November 2021, the Authority called Mr Elbourne who was not available and left a message requesting that he call back to discuss the application. A further reminder was sent requesting that the missing information be provided by 26 November 2021. No response was received.
16. On 14 Dec 2021 the Authority sent a letter to GET by way of email and special delivery, noting the lack of a response to its requests for the information and informing it that a failure to provide the information would result in the Application being determined based upon the information received to date and that this might result in the Authority issuing GET with a Warning Notice proposing to refuse the Application. GET failed to provide the outstanding information by the deadline of 30 Dec 2021 and no response was received.

IMPACT ON THRESHOLD CONDITIONS

17. GET has failed to respond to 7 separate requests for the provision of information considered by the Authority to be necessary to allow the Application to be determined. The final request gave GET 10 business days to respond and included a statement to the effect that GET must contact the Authority, or the Authority would issue GET with a Warning Notice.
18. The Authority must therefore determine the Application based upon the information received to date, in circumstances where its requests for information have not been met. Having reviewed that information, the Authority cannot ensure that GET satisfies, and will continue to satisfy, the threshold conditions.
19. Authorised firms (and those seeking authorisation) are expected to engage with the Authority in an open and cooperative way. The failure to provide the requested information raises concerns that GET would fail to do so if the Application were to be granted.
20. The failure to provide the information raises concerns as to whether GET:
 - a. can be effectively supervised by the Authority as required by threshold condition 2C;
 - b. has appropriate human resources, given GET's failure to provide the Authority with the requested information as required by threshold condition 2D; and
 - c. will conduct its business with integrity and in compliance with proper standards as required by threshold condition 2E.

21. On the basis of the facts and matters described above, the Authority cannot ensure that GET will not satisfy, and continue to satisfy, the threshold conditions in relation to all of the regulated activities for which GET would have permission if the application was granted and accordingly has decided to refuse the application.

The regulatory provisions relevant to this Final Notice are referred to in Annex A.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Decision maker

22. The decision which gave rise to the obligation to give this Final Notice was made by the Executive Decision Maker.
23. This Final Notice is given under section 390 of the Act. The following statutory rights are important.

Publication

24. Sections 391(4), 391(6) and 391(7) of the Act apply to the publication of information about the matter to which the Notice relates. Under those provisions, the Authority must publish such information about the matter to which this Notice relates as the Authority considers appropriate. The information may be published in such a manner as the Authority considers appropriate. However, the Authority may not publish information if such publication if such publication would, in the opinion of the Authority, be unfair to you or prejudicial to the interest of consumers or detrimental to the stability of the UK Financial system.
25. The Authority intends to publish this Final Notice.

Authority contacts

26. For more information concerning this matter generally, contact Jason Sullivan, Manager, Credit & Mortgage Intermediaries Team 3 (direct line: 02070661283 Jason.Sullivan@fca.org.uk) at the Authority.

Jason Sullivan
Manager Credit and Mortgage Intermediaries

ANNEX A – REGULATORY PROVISIONS RELEVANT TO THIS FINAL NOTICE

Relevant Statutory Provisions

1. Section 55A(1) of the Act provides for an application for permission to carry on one or more regulated activities to be made to the appropriate regulator. Section 55A(2) defines the “appropriate regulator” for different applications.
2. Section 55B(3) of the Act provides that, in giving or varying permission, imposing or varying a requirement, or giving consent, under any provision of Part 4A of the Act, each regulator must ensure that the person concerned will satisfy, and continue to satisfy, in relation to all of the regulated activities for which the person has or will have permission, the threshold conditions for which that regulator is responsible.
3. The threshold conditions are set out in schedule 6 of the Act. In brief, the threshold conditions relate to:
 - (1) Threshold condition 2B: Location of offices
 - (2) Threshold condition 2C: Effective supervision
 - (3) Threshold condition 2D: Appropriate resources
 - (4) Threshold condition 2E: Suitability
 - (5) Threshold condition 2F: Business model

Relevant provisions of the Authority’s Handbook

4. In exercising its powers in relation to the granting of a Part 4A permission, the Authority must have regard to guidance published in the Authority’s Handbook, including the part entitled Threshold Conditions (“COND”). The main considerations in relation to the action specified are set out below.
5. COND 1.3.2G(2) states that, in relation to threshold conditions 2D to 2F, the Authority will consider whether a firm is ready, willing and organised to comply on a continuing basis with the requirements and standards under the regulatory system which will apply to the firm if it is granted Part 4A permission.
6. COND 1.3.3AG provides that, in determining the weight to be given to any relevant matter, the Authority will consider its significance in relation to the regulated activities for which the firm has, or will have, permission in the context of its ability to supervise the firm adequately, having regard to the Authority’s statutory objectives. In this context, a series of matters may be significant when taken together, even though each of them in isolation might not give serious cause for concern.
7. COND 1.3.3BG provides that, in determining whether the firm will satisfy, and continue to satisfy, the Authority threshold conditions, the Authority will have regard to all relevant matters, whether arising in the United Kingdom or elsewhere.

Threshold Condition 2C: Effective Supervision

8. COND 2.3.3G states that, in assessing the threshold condition set out in paragraph 2C of Schedule 6 to the Act, factors which the Authority will take into consideration include, among other things, whether it is likely that the Authority will receive adequate information from the firm to determine whether it is complying with the requirements and standards under the regulatory system for which the Authority is responsible and to identify and assess the impact on its statutory objectives; this will include consideration of whether the firm is ready, willing and organised to comply with Principle 11 (Relations with regulators) and the rules in SUP on the provision of information to the Authority.

Threshold condition 2D: Appropriate Resources

9. COND 2.4.2G(2) states that the Authority will interpret the term 'appropriate' as meaning sufficient in terms of quantity, quality and availability, and 'resources' as including all financial resources (though only in the case of firms not carrying on, or seeking to carry on, a PRA-regulated activity), non-financial resources and means of managing its resources; for example, capital, provisions against liabilities, holdings of or access to cash and other liquid assets, human resources and effective means by which to manage risks.
10. COND 2.4.2G(2A) provides that, 'non-financial resources' of the firm include human resources it has available.
11. COND 2.4.2G (3) states that high level systems and control requirements are in SYSC. The Authority will consider whether the firm is ready, willing and organised to comply with these and other applicable systems and controls requirements when assessing if it has appropriate non-financial resources for the purpose of the threshold conditions set out in threshold condition 2D.

Threshold condition 2E: Suitability

12. COND 2.5.2G(2) states that the Authority will also take into consideration anything that could influence a firm's continuing ability to satisfy the threshold conditions set out in paragraphs 2E and 3D of Schedule 6 to the Act. Examples include the firm's position within a UK or international group, information provided by overseas regulators about the firm, and the firm's plans to seek to vary its Part 4A permission to carry on additional regulated activities once it has been granted that permission.
13. COND 2.5.4G(2)(c)G states that examples of the kind of general considerations to which the Authority may have regard when assessing whether a firm will satisfy, and continue to satisfy, threshold condition 2E include, but are not limited to, whether the firm can demonstrate that it conducts, or will conduct, its business with integrity and in compliance with proper standards.
14. COND 2.5.6G provides that examples of the kind of particular considerations to which the Authority may have regard when assessing whether a firm will satisfy, and continue to satisfy, this threshold condition include, but are not limited to, whether the firm has been open and co-operative in all its dealings with the Authority and any other regulatory body (see Principle 11 (Relations with regulators)) and is ready, willing and organised to comply with the requirements and standards under the regulatory system (such as the detailed requirements of SYSC and, in relation to a firm not carrying on, or seeking to carry on, a PRA-regulated activity only, the Prudential Standards part of the Authority's

Handbook)in addition to other legal, regulatory and professional obligations; the relevant requirements and standards will depend on the circumstances of each case, including the regulated activities which the firm has permission, or is seeking permission, to carry on.