Dear

**Freedom of Information : Right to know request**

We refer to your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), for the information relating to the recently launched FCA Advice Unit.

Your request has now been considered and we will address each point in turn.

1. **Any and all projections of the expected cost of the Advice Unit for as many years as these have been made.**

   Projections for the expected cost of the Advice Unit have been made for the financial year 2016/17, which is estimated to be £500,000.

2. **The number of FCA staff dedicated to working on the Advice Unit and any and all projections for this number for as many years as they have been made. If some or all of these staff have been relocated from other areas within the FCA, please specify where they have been relocated from.**

   For the financial year 2016/17, 4.5 FTE (full time employee) staff have been allocated to the Advice Unit. Existing staff have been drawn from the FCA’s Policy Department.

3. **The name of the FCA staff member responsible for overseeing the Advice Unit.**

   Graeme McLean, Head of Department, Banking, Lending & Distribution Policy.

4. **The number of firms that have worked and are working with the Advice Unit at the time this request is answered. Please give an indication of the sizes of each of these firms in terms of staff headcount, turnover and any and all other measures of size held by the regulator.**

   The Advice Unit team was set up in May 2016 and the Unit formally opened its application process to firms on 31 May 2016. The initial application period will be open until 1 July 2016 and we plan to contact firms in August 2016 to tell them whether their application has been successful. Although we have been contacted
by a number of interested firms so far, we will not begin working with firms proactively until August.

Yours sincerely

Information Access Team
Financial Conduct Authority