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July 2017

Our Ref: FOI5187

Dear

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

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

Following your request for information on 15 May 2017 we provided a response with a breakdown of the number of women and men holding the controlled functions (CF1 to CF4) in 2016. This particular request (FOI5142), can be found below:

**FOI5142**

*"Following a previous FOI request, reference FOI4660, I would like to have the below functions split by gender where the applicants have stated Mr, Ms, Mrs and Miss in their application.*

- 1. How many Control Function 1 Holders are women, how many are men?*
- 2. How many Control Function 2 Holders are women, how many are men?*
- 3. How many Control Function 3 Holders are women, how many are men?*
- 4. How many Control Function 4 Holders are women, how many are men?*

*I would like this data for the Year 2016 (year-end 31st December.)"*

The answer to this question (FOI5142) was provided to you on 12 June 2017 and will be published on our disclosure log shortly.

On 13 June 2017, you subsequently asked two questions, 1) whether the data was correct and 2) whether we knew why there was a decrease in the number of women holding Director positions from 2015 to 2016. This request had been recorded as FOI5187. The additional question is as follows:

**FOI5187**

*"I have been looking at the numbers and found that the total number of women directors has decreased very rapidly in the last year, from 9,275 in 2015 to just 7,190 in 2016. I just wanted to check that this is definitely correct, and if it is, wondered if you had any idea why the number might have dropped?"*

Your request has now been considered. I can confirm that the data are accurate.

Regarding your second question, for certain types of firms, the introduction of the Senior Managers Regime (SMR) in March 2016 reduced the population of individuals requiring FCA approval under APER (Approved Persons Regime). Our analysis of data for firms unaffected by the SMR shows a clear decrease in the number of women holding controlled functions CF1 to CF4. We do not see a similar change in the number of men holding these functions, however. Accordingly, we are unable to draw a conclusion on why the number of women holding Director positions decreased.

Yours sincerely

**Information Disclosure Team**