

Email: foi@fca.org.uk

[By email]

3 September 2018

Our Ref: **FOI5926**

Dear

Freedom of Information : Right to know request

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

Your request has been considered and answered in turn.

"I would like information on the FCA's multi-firm supervision exercise on pension transfers that began in October 2015. To be clear, all of these questions relate to financial advice firms - those obligated to give regulated financial advice.

1. Can you briefly describe each of the 'phases'? It has been described to me, for example, that the questionnaire to all firms with pension transfer permissions is 'phase four' of the exercise.

Phase 1 - Discovery multi-firm work to assess how firms undertaking DB transfers were responding to pension reforms and to identify any potential risks to customer outcomes.

Phase 2 - Further phase of multi-firm work to assess how firms undertaking DB transfers were responding to pension reforms and to identify any potential risks to customer outcomes.

Phase 3 - Further phase of multi-firm work to assess how firms undertaking DB transfers were responding to pension reforms and to identify any potential risks to customer outcomes.

Phase 4 - Market wide data request to all firms with DB transfer permission.

2. For each of the phases, how many financial advice firms did the FCA make contact with?

Phase 1 - 6 firms

Phase 2 - 16 firms

Phase 3 - 46 firms

Phase 4 - Market wide (c3026 firms with the appropriate permissions)

3. For each of the phases, how many financial advice firms had their permissions changed as a result of the supervision exercise? Did any have their regulated permissions cancelled altogether?

Phase 1 - 0 firms

Phase 2 - 4 firms voluntarily varied or removed pension transfer permissions

Phase 3 - 4 firms voluntarily varied or removed pension transfer permissions

4. Overall, how many advice firms have been contacted through the supervision exercise?

Phases 1 - 3 - 68 firms

Phase 4 - due to commence Q4 2018

5. How many firms is the FCA planning to send, or has sent questionnaires out to, as part of phase four of the exercise?

This is currently in the planning stage with approx. 3026 firms in scope.

6. How will the FCA send out these questionnaires? For example, to the largest firms first, or to the most active firms, or geographically, or perhaps all at once?

A pilot will be issued to a small sample of firms initially. The questionnaire will be then be sent out to the remaining firms as a market wide request.

7. When do you expect firms to return the phase four questionnaires by?

The questionnaire will be issued and returned during Q4 2018.

8. As part of the exercise, how many financial advice firms have cancelled regulated permissions, either voluntarily or otherwise?"

In phases 1-3, 8 firms have varied or removed pension transfer permissions as a result of our work.

Yours sincerely

Information Disclosure Team

Your right to complain under the Act

If you are unhappy with the decision made in relation to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. If you wish to exercise this right you should contact us within three months of the date of this response.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you also have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. Telephone: 01625 545 700. Website: www.ico.org.uk