

06 April 2020

Our Ref: FOI7179

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 9 March 2020.

You asked:

'Please can you let me know the total number of firms that FCA regulated as at 31 March for the following years:

2014/15

2015/16

2016/17

2017/18

2018/19'

We have considered your request in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and our response is set out in the table below.

Year*	Firms*
2014/2015	26000
2015/2016	73000
2016/2017	56000
2017/2018	56000
2018/2019	58000

** The number of firms authorised changes daily so round to the nearest 1000.*

** Data provided in March, not specifically the 31st March as you requested.*

Please note the increase in the number of authorised firms in the year 2015/ 2016 was due to the FCA extending its regulatory remit to consumer credit firms, who initially had to register with the FCA for interim permissions. These firms then had to apply for full authorisation by 31 March 2016 if they wanted to continue to carry on regulated credit activities. Due to legislative change, a number of firms no longer needed to be authorised by us. Of those that did, some decided to become Appointed Representatives, some decided not to apply, some were no longer separately categorised as credit firms and others were not authorised. This resulted in the decrease in authorised firms in the year 2016/2017.

We publish the number of firms that we authorise in our yearly business plan that can be found on our [website](#).

If you are unhappy with our response you have the right to request an internal review. If you wish to exercise this right you should contact us within 40 working days 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, who can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire
SK9 5AF.

Telephone: 01625 545 700

Website: www.ico.org.uk

Thank you for your interest in the FCA

Yours sincerely,

Information Disclosure Team