

22 April 2020

Our Ref: FOI7209

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

Thank you for your email of 24 March 2020, about the number of investigations the FCA has opened into businesses over the last two years.

We are handling your request as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and have answered each question in turn.

***1) Why have investigations opened by the FCA fallen over the last year? For example, there were 127 in 2018 but only 61 in 2019. Please note that the quarters in the table correspond to calendar years and not the FCA's own reporting period?***

There are multiple factors that impact the number of enforcement investigations that the FCA may open during any quarter including, for example, market factors, supervisory focus, referrals from other agencies, intelligence received and our focus on holding individuals as well as firms to account.

Enforcement conducts forensic investigations into suspected misconduct, and where appropriate pursues and remedies misconduct by firms and individuals by the use of enforcement powers and civil, criminal and administrative sanctions.

***2) Does this fall reflect market events? For example, there were 17 investigations into investment advisers in Q1 2018 and 12 into Civil UBD in Q4 2018 which were responsible for driving the high totals in both those respective quarters?***

Please see our response to question one.

**3) How does the FCA allocate its investigatory resources? Does this impact the number of investigations opened in particular quarters?**

Resources are not a determinative factor when we open enforcement investigations as we test to see if suspected serious misconduct has taken place in line with the published Approach to Enforcement (found [here](#)). We also carry out investigations into Unauthorised businesses and individuals carrying out regulated activity without authorisation.

**Your right to complain under FOIA**

If you are unhappy with the decision we have made about your request, you have the right to request an internal review. To do so, please 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 by phone or on their website at:

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

**Information Disclosure Team**