

13 November 2020
Our Ref: FOI7662

Dear

Thank you for your emails of 23 September and 19 October 2020, the latter of which helpfully clarified your request (see Annex A).

We are handling your emails as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the information provided for each question is correct as at 25 September 2020.

1. *How many applications have been received to date for company registration for crypto-asset activities?*

We can confirm as at the 25/09/2020, 147 applications for registration to carry out Cryptoasset activities have been received.

2. *How many of those have been accepted, refused, are still pending?*

We can confirm as at the 25/09/2020, 4 applications had been approved, and 143 were still pending.

3. *Can you determine an average time for a decision on applications?*

We can confirm the mean time for assessment is approximately 150 calendar days.

4. *At any time over the past 6 months, was the offices for this decision-making closed due to covid-19?*

We have not been closed for business during this time and have remained open and fully operational.

5. *If so, for how long were the offices closed?*

We have not been closed for business during this time and have remained open and fully operational.

6. *Has there been a department reduction of staff at any point as a result of covid-19, due to illness, quarantine or similar?*

At different points during the period 17 March 2020 to 25 September 2020, the department has experienced reductions in staff.

7. *Has the department worked at reduced operating hours?*

During the period 17 March 2020 to 25 September 2020, there has been no reduction in the hours worked during the specified period.

8. *Is the department at normal operation currently (further clarification provided in Annex A)?*

During the period 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020, there has been no reduction in the hours worked when compared to the period 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020. The majority of staff within the department have been working from home in the latter period and have continued to maintain their role in full.

9. *Are any staff working from home now, or at any point previously?*

During the period 17 March 2020 to 25 September 2020, the majority of staff within the department have been working from home.

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 40 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 by phone or on their website at:

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Information Disclosure Team



Annex A

Question 8

It's meaning was in general terms, is there normal levels of staff at capacity, maintaining their role in full and not on reduced working hours, or operating remotely. In terms of time frame let's take the last 6 months in comparison to the 6 months previously. 1st Oct 2019 - 31st March 2020 vs 1st April 2020 - 30th September 2020.