

Date: 8 April 2021

Our Ref: FOI8133

Dear

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your email of Monday 10 March 2021, in which you asked for:

'• *The total number of regulated firms providing retail investment advice that were granted FCA authorisation in the calendar years, 2020, 2019 and 2018. If 2020 figures are not available please provide figures for 2017 instead.*

• *Please also provide a breakdown of that figure for firms with: 1 adviser, 2-5 advisers, 6-50 advisers, over 50 advisers. Again for each of those three calendar years.*

I am defining financial advice firms as the FCA does in its retail intermediary report, which is based on the Retail Mediation Activities Return
<https://www.fca.org.uk/data/retail-intermediary-market-2019>

That data provides a figure for total advice firms of different sizes but does not indicate how many firms of each type exited the market or entered the market. That is what I am trying to establish.'

We have processed your email in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and our response is below.

The data provided in annex A reflects firms that we categorise as financial advisers that were newly authorised in the years in question. This has been coupled with information on the number of staff advising on retail investments subsequently provided by the firms on the RMA-G return. There is a time delay between a firm becoming authorised and first submitting the return. The adviser data therefore comes from the year following the one in which the firm was first authorised.

For a number of the firms that became authorised in 2020 the adviser data has yet to be submitted to us so rather than provide incomplete data we have instead provided data for 2017, in addition to that for 2018 and 2019.

Please note that data on the Retail Intermediary Market that we publish annually is based on firms that submitted the relevant section of the RMAR for the given calendar year and were on the register at the year end. The time lag between authorisation and RMAR submission means that not all authorised firms are included in the published data and there will consequently be some differences between the published data and the data we have supplied in response to your request.

Your right to complain under FOIA

If you are unhappy with this response, you have the right to request an internal review. To do so, please contact us within 40 working days of the date of this response at FreedomofInformationAppeals@fca.org.uk.

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
Financial Conduct Authority