

**CREDIT  
READY**



# Not-For-Profit Decision Tool

Helping you determine whether you need  
full or limited permission.



Use this tool if you are a not-for-profit body to decide whether you need to apply for full or limited permission for your consumer credit activities. Simply follow the questions, and you'll soon be one step closer to applying for authorisation.

If there are any terms that you don't understand, please read our jargon buster. Once you've completed the decision tool, use either the full permission or limited permission checklists on our website to help you prepare your application.

**Before you start, please read the information below:**

- When we refer to "you", we are referring to your organisation.
- If **any** of your activities are full permission you will need to apply for full permission, even if some of your activities would otherwise qualify for limited permission.
- This tool does not apply if you are; a profit-seeking firm, a local authority, a firm that is already authorised by either the FCA or PRA; or a firm that plans to carry on a non-credit regulated activity. You should instead visit our website for information on how to apply.

**Please start at question 1 and follow the tool through in full until you reach an answer that advises you to apply for full permission or limited permission.**

## SECTION 1

### LENDING

1. Do you enter into regulated credit agreements as a lender (or exercise, or have the right to exercise, the lender's rights and duties) under a regulated credit agreement?

Yes Continue to **question 2**

No Go to **Section 2**

2. Is your main business to sell goods or supply services and not to carry on a regulated activity (other than regulated consumer hire agreements)?

Yes Continue to **question 3**

No Please apply for **full permission**

3. A) Do you charge any money to borrowers in connection with the provision of credit – including interest payments and other charges?

B) Are your agreements ever hire purchase or conditional sale agreements?

Yes (to either of these questions) please apply for **full permission**

No (to both questions) continue to **question 4**

4. Do you carry on any other credit-related regulated activities (other than the ones that we have already asked you about)?

Yes Continue to **section 2**

No Please apply for **limited permission**

## SECTION 2

### PEER-TO-PEER LENDING

5. Do you operate an electronic system in relation to lending (sometimes referred to as a peer-to-peer lending platform)?

Yes Please apply for **full permission**

No Continue to **section 3**

## SECTION 3

### ACTIVITIES RELATING TO DEBT

6. Do you carry on debt collection and/or debt administration?

Yes Please apply for **full permission**

No Continue to **question 7**

7. Do you carry on debt counselling and/or debt adjusting?

Yes Continue to **question 8**

No Go to **section 4**

8. Do you carry on any other credit-related regulated activities (other than the ones that we have already asked you about)?

Yes Continue to **section 4**

No Please apply for **limited permission**

## SECTION 4

### HIRE

9. Do you enter into regulated consumer hire agreements as owner (or exercise, or have the right to exercise, the owner's rights and duties) under regulated consumer hire agreements?  
*Please note that a hire purchase agreement is a credit agreement, not a hire agreement.*

Yes Continue to **question 10**

No Go to **section 5**

10. Do you carry on any other credit-related regulated activities (other than the ones that we have already asked you about)?

Yes Continue to **section 5**

No Please apply for **limited permission**

## SECTION 5

### BROKING

11. Do you engage in credit broking (for example, do you introduce customers to a finance or leasing company)?

Yes Continue to **question 12**

No Go to **section 6**

12. Do you carry on credit broking in relation to green deal plans?

Yes Continue to **question 13**

No Go to **question 14**

13. Is this the only type of broking you carry on?

Yes Go to **question 19**

No Continue to **question 14**

14. Do you carry on credit broking in relation to the hire of vehicles?

*Please note that a hire purchase agreement is a credit agreement, not a hire agreement.*

Yes Continue to **question 15**

No Go to **question 16**

15. Is this (or this and green deal broking) the only type of broking that you carry on?

Yes Go to **question 19**

No Continue to **question 16**

16. Do you carry on broking for the purposes of, or in connection with, the sale of goods or supply of services by you to a customer (who need not be the borrower under the credit agreement or hirer under a hire agreement)?

Yes Continue to **question 17**

No Please apply for **full permission**

17. A) Is broking and other regulated activities (other than consumer hire) your main business (as opposed to ancillary to your main business of selling goods or supplying non-regulated services, other than consumer hire)?

B) Are you selling goods or supplying services to customers who are individuals while physically present in the dwelling of the customer, or in consequence of an agreement concluded when physically present in the dwelling of the customer, other than on an occasional basis?

Yes (to either of these questions) please apply for **full permission**

No Continue to **question 18**

18. Is this (or this, green deal broking and/or broking of hire agreements) the only type of broking that you carry on?

Yes Continue to **question 19**

No Please apply for **full permission**

19. Do you carry on any other credit-related regulated activities (other than the ones that we have already asked you about)?

Yes Continue to **section 6**

No Please apply for **limited permission**

## SECTION 6

### CREDIT REFERENCES AND INFORMATION

20. Do you provide credit references?

Yes Please apply for **full permission**

No Continue to **question 21**

21. Do you provide credit information services?

Yes Continue to **question 22**

No Go to **question 23**

22. Do you only provide credit information services in connection with another limited permission activity that you also carry on?

Yes Continue to **question 23**

No Please apply for **full permission**

**23.** Do you carry on any other credit-related regulated activities (other than the ones that we have already asked you about)?

**Yes** Please check your answers to the questions above, as they cover all of the credit-related regulated activities. Because your answers indicate that you do not carry on any of these activities, please see our 'do I need to be authorised' webpage if you are unsure which activities you carry on.

**No** Please apply for **limited permission**

**Now you've completed our decision tool, go through either our full permission or limited permission checklists on our website to help you prepare for your application.**

**If you are still unsure about what permission to apply for, please call us on 0300 500 0597.**

**You may also have the option to become an appointed representative as long as you are not: entering into a regulated credit agreement as a lender (or exercising the lender's rights and duties in relation to agreements) under which interest or any other charges are applied; or providing credit references. See the jargon buster on our website for more information.**

This tool is designed to help you decide whether you need to apply for limited or full permission. However it is not a definitive statement of the law, for which you should refer to paragraph 2G of Schedule 6 to the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. For more guidance see the relevant sections of the FCA Handbook (in particular COND 1.1A.5A) and consider seeking independent legal or compliance advice.