

Email: foi@fca.org.uk

By email

6 November 2018

Our Ref: FOI6019

Dear

Freedom of Information : Right to know request

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) for the following information:

"In reference to a previous FOI response (your ref: FOI5673), please see below.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to know:

1. *How many investigations has the FCA opened relating to cryptocurrencies in the last 5 years?*
2. *How many whistleblower reports related to cryptocurrencies has the FCA received in the last 5 years?"*

Your request has now been considered and the relevant information is below.

For point 1, we have opened enquiries into the activities of a number of unauthorised firms that appear to be involved in some form of cryptocurrency business, in order to determine whether their cryptocurrency business might involve their conducting any regulated activities without our authorisation. This is potentially a criminal offence under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. The number of firms we have conducted enquiries into has increased from 24 to 50 since our last response dated 24 May 2018. At this stage, these inquiries have not led us to open any formal investigations.

For point 2, I can confirm that as at 1 October 2018 we have not received any whistleblower reports in relation to cryptocurrencies in the period 2014 to 2017. We have received seven reports in 2018.

Yours sincerely

Information Disclosure Team

Your right to complain under the FoI Act

If you are unhappy with the decision made in relation to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. If you wish to exercise this right you should 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 at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. Telephone: 01625 545 700. Website: www.ico.org.uk