

This week at the UK regulators

Thirty second guide: The week in overview

In a week without concluded enforcement activity, the FCA announced that plans to overhaul its Handbook will be delayed until after Brexit, when there will be a clearer picture of what the UK's future relationship with Europe will look like. The FCA also published a discussion paper on what "good culture" might look like in financial services, which it hopes will provide a basis for further debate, and a policy statement setting out its proposed approach to the use of powers to compel benchmark contributions (which, as matters stand, it should not have to use). Separately, HM Treasury called for evidence on the role of cash and digital payments in the new economy.

FCA publishes discussion paper on transforming culture in financial services

On 12 March 2018, the FCA published a discussion paper on transforming culture in financial services. The paper, which presents views from academics and industry thought leaders, is intended to provide a basis for simulating further debate. The paper takes the form of a set of essays that discuss what good culture might look like, the role of regulators, how firms might go beyond incentives, and how to change behaviour for the better. The FCA would like all those with an interest in financial services to consider the issues in the paper and to engage in the debate about what constitutes a healthy culture, and how to promote it.

<https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/discussion/dp18-02.pdf>

FCA Handbook overhaul delayed until after Brexit

The FCA announced this week that the planned overhaul of its handbook will have to wait until after the UK's departure from the EU. Last month the FCA published a document on what its "mission" should be over the coming years and, as part of this, outlined objectives to "slim down" the FCA rule book. The FCA's CEO, Andrew Bailey, said that this mission statement was not about Brexit, but that any overhaul of the handbook would need to take Brexit into consideration. The FCA has also revealed that it will limit the number of rule changes it makes in the lead up to Brexit.

HM Treasury calls for evidence on cash and digital payments

On 13 March 2018, HM Treasury issued a call for evidence

on the role of cash and digital payments in the new economy. It has been released to acknowledge the declining use of cash and to explore how the transition to digital payments impacts different sectors, regions and demographics. The UK Government is seeking to gather evidence to inform the debate around these issues and to examine ways in which it may support digital payments and ensure the ability to pay by cash is still available for those who require it, while simultaneously cracking down on the minority who use cash to evade tax and launder money. The paper invites both domestic and international responses by 5 June 2018.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/689234/Cash_and_digital_payments_in_the_new_economy.pdf

FCA warnings

Name of firm	Date of warning	Details
Marcela Cunderle	16 March 2018	Clone firm https://www.fca.org.uk/news/warnings/marcela-cunderle-clone
Firefly Finance	16 March 2018	Clone firm https://www.fca.org.uk/news/warnings/firefly-finance-clone
Centillion General Holding Limited, CGFX	15 March 2018	Clone firm https://www.fca.org.uk/news/warnings/centillion-general-holding-limited-cgfx-clone
Cater Allen Private Bank	15 March 2018	Clone firm https://www.fca.org.uk/news/warnings/cater-allen-private-bank-clone-authorized-firm
Amadicia Ltd/ Epic Ventures Ltd t/a 72 Option	15 March 2018	Not authorised https://www.fca.org.uk/news/warnings/amadicia-ltd-epic-ventures-ltd-t-72-option
Lendings Limited	14 March 2018	Not authorised https://www.fca.org.uk/news/warnings/lendings-limited
RBCP INTERNATIONAL / RBC GROUP	14 March 2018	Not authorised https://www.fca.org.uk/news/warnings/rbc-international-rbc-group
Westpac Bank of London	14 March 2018	Clone firm https://www.fca.org.uk/news/warnings/westpac-bank-london-clone

Christopher Scholz	13 March 2018	Clone firm https://www.fca.org.uk/news/warnings/christopher-scholz-clone
Plusoption	12 March 2018	Not authorised https://www.fca.org.uk/news/warnings/plusoption
Redfield Markets	12 March 2018	Not authorised https://www.fca.org.uk/news/warnings/redfield-markets
ACV Operations S.R.L	12 March 2018	Not authorised https://www.fca.org.uk/news/warnings/acv-operations-srl

Policy developments

FCA		PRA	
Proposed developments			
		Deadline for responses	
Discussion papers	On 12 March, the FCA released a discussion paper (DP 18/2) on transforming culture in financial services. See full details above. https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/discussion/dp18-02.pdf	Not applicable	

Finalised Policy and guidance			
		Implementation/effective date	
Policy statements	On 14 March, the FCA released a policy statement (PS 18/5) feeding back on responses		

	<p>received to a consultation paper published in 2015 setting out its approach to the use of powers to compel contributions. Since then, the 20 current panel banks have agreed to provide contributions until the end of 2021. This means that, as matters stand, the use by the FCA of these powers is not necessary. The policy statement sets out the approach, criteria and methodology to be applied if the use of the powers were to become necessary (based on currently prevailing circumstances).</p> <p>https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/policy/ps18-05.pdf</p>			
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