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Mr Darren Isaac
Via email

24 February 2020

Our Ref: FOI6689

Your Ref:

Dear Mr Isaac

Freedom of Information: internal review

Thank you for your email dated 27 January 2020 in which you question why our response to your internal review request dated 24 January 2020 withheld some of the email addresses of EEA Authorised Firms under section 12 (Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act"). You explain that a third party has offered this information for sale and believe that the FCA has been deliberately obstructive in not providing all email addresses to you. You have provided a copy of an email from a third party setting out changes to their services as a result of the SM&CR.

It may assist if I firstly explain that it is possible to order an extract of data from the FS Register and use the information commercially for a charge – please refer to the following web page for further details:

<https://www.fca.org.uk/firms/financial-services-register/data-extract>.

The information provided to you on 24 January 2020 within the excel spreadsheet contained a list of firms with permissions that allow them to carry out general insurance broking and that are supervised within our General Insurance Portfolios. We also mentioned that not all the firms listed will necessarily be general insurance brokers or be carrying out that activity. We further explained that we would only hold the email address of an EEA Authorised Firm where the host state regulator has provided it to us. Since 2015 any notifications received have been captured within our electronic database and when the firm was added to the FS Register the email address should have been included, if held.

Therefore, any notifications from host state regulators about EEA Authorised Firms, for which email addresses do not appear on the FS Register, and which were received prior to 2015, would need to be reviewed to identify if an email address is held and it is this information to which section 12 of the Act applies. Consequently, because this information is not held electronically

on our systems it is not possible for it to be provided as part of the data extract service and offered for sale for commercial purposes.

It is possible the third party are using alternative sources to enhance the data they are selling as email addresses are not provided in the FS Register Extract.

I trust this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "PP" followed by a stylized name.

Information Disclosure Team