



Financial Services and Markets Act 2000

2000 CHAPTER 8

PART VI

OFFICIAL LISTING

Sponsors

88 Sponsors.

- (1) Listing rules may require a person to make arrangements with a sponsor for the performance by the sponsor of such services in relation to him as may be specified in the rules.
- (2) “Sponsor” means a person approved by the [^{F1}FCA] for the purposes of the rules.
- (3) Listing rules made by virtue of subsection (1) may—
 - (a) provide for the [^{F1}FCA] to maintain a list of sponsors;
 - (b) specify services which must be performed by a sponsor;
 - (c) impose requirements on a sponsor in relation to the provision of services or specified services;
 - (d) specify the circumstances in which a person is qualified for being approved as a sponsor.
- [^{F2}(e) provide for limitations or other restrictions to be imposed on the services to which an approval relates (whether or not the approval has already been granted);
- (f) provide for the approval of a sponsor to be suspended on the application of the sponsor.]
- (4) If the [^{F1}FCA] proposes—
 - (a) to refuse a person’s application [^{F3}under sponsor rules],
 - [^{F4}(aa) to impose limitations or other restrictions on the services to which a person’s approval relates,] or
 - (b) to cancel a person’s approval as a sponsor [^{F5}otherwise than at his request],

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it must give him a warning notice.

(5) If, after considering any representations made in response to the warning notice, the [F1FCA] decides—

- (a) to grant the application [F6under sponsor rules],
- [F7(aa) not to impose limitations or other restrictions on the services to which a person's approval relates,] or
- (b) not to cancel the approval,

it must give the person concerned, and any person to whom a copy of the warning notice was given, written notice of its decision.

(6) If, after considering any representations made in response to the warning notice, the [F1FCA] decides—

- (a) to refuse to grant the application [F8under sponsor rules],
- [F9(aa) to impose limitations or other restrictions on the services to which a person's approval relates,] or
- (b) to cancel the approval,

it must give the person concerned a decision notice.

(7) A person to whom a decision notice is given under this section may refer the matter to the Tribunal.

[F10(8) In this section any reference to an application under sponsor rules means—

- (a) an application for approval as a sponsor,
- (b) an application for the suspension of an approval as a sponsor,
- (c) an application for the withdrawal of the suspension of an approval as a sponsor, or
- (d) an application for the withdrawal or variation of a limitation or other restriction on the services to which a sponsor's approval relates.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in ss. 87Q-88 substituted (24.1.2013 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Financial Services Act 2012 \(c. 21\), ss.16\(2\)\(3\)\(f\), 122\(3\) \(with Sch. 20\); S.I. 2013/113, art. 2\(1\)\(c\), Sch. Pt. 3; S.I. 2013/423, art. 3, Sch.](#)
- F2** S. 88(3)(e)(f) inserted (19.3.2013 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Financial Services Act 2012 \(c. 21\), s. 18\(2\)\(a\)\(3\), 122\(3\) \(with Sch. 20\); S.I. 2013/423, art. 3, Sch.; S.I. 2013/651, art. 2\(a\)](#)
- F3** Words in s. 88(4)(a) substituted (19.3.2013 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Financial Services Act 2012 \(c. 21\), ss. 18\(2\)\(b\), 122\(3\) \(with Sch. 20\); S.I. 2013/423, art. 3, Sch.; S.I. 2013/651, art. 2\(a\)](#)
- F4** S. 88(4)(aa) inserted (19.3.2013 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Financial Services Act 2012 \(c. 21\), ss. 18\(2\)\(c\), 122\(3\) \(with Sch. 20\); S.I. 2013/423, art. 3, Sch.; S.I. 2013/651, art. 2\(a\)](#)
- F5** Words in s. 88(4)(b) inserted (12.7.2007) by [The Regulatory Reform \(Financial Services and Markets Act 2000\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/1973\), art. 9](#)
- F6** Words in s. 88(5)(a) substituted (19.3.2013 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Financial Services Act 2012 \(c. 21\), ss. 18\(2\)\(d\), 122\(3\) \(with Sch. 20\); S.I. 2013/423, art. 3, Sch.; S.I. 2013/651, art. 2\(a\)](#)

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- F7** S. 88(5)(aa) inserted (19.3.2013 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Financial Services Act 2012 \(c. 21\), ss. 18\(2\)\(e\), 122\(3\)](#) (with Sch. 20); S.I. 2013/423, art. 3, Sch.; S.I. 2013/651, art. 2(a)
- F8** Words in s. 88(6)(a) substituted (19.3.2013 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Financial Services Act 2012 \(c. 21\), ss. 18\(2\)\(f\), 122\(3\)](#) (with Sch. 20); S.I. 2013/423, art. 3, Sch.; S.I. 2013/651, art. 2(a)
- F9** S. 88(6)(aa) inserted (19.3.2013 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Financial Services Act 2012 \(c. 21\), ss. 18\(2\)\(g\), 122\(3\)](#) (with Sch. 20); S.I. 2013/423, art. 3, Sch.; S.I. 2013/651, art. 2(a)
- F10** S. 88(8) inserted (19.3.2013 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Financial Services Act 2012 \(c. 21\), ss. 18\(2\)\(h\), 122\(3\)](#) (with Sch. 20); S.I. 2013/423, art. 3, Sch.; S.I. 2013/651, art. 2(a)

Commencement Information

- II** S. 88 wholly in force at 1.12.2001; s. 88 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 431(2); s. 88(1)-(3) in force at 18.6.2001 by [S.I. 2001/1820, art. 2, Sch.](#); s. 88 in force in so far as not already in force at 1.12.2001 by [S.I. 2001/3538, art. 2\(1\)](#)

^{F11}89 Public censure of sponsor.

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Textual Amendments

- F11** Ss. 88A-88F substituted for s. 89 (24.1.2013 for specified purposes, 19.3.2013 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Financial Services Act 2012 \(c. 21\), ss. 18\(4\), 122\(3\)](#) (with Sch. 20); S.I. 2013/113, art. 2(1)(c), Sch. Pt. 3; S.I. 2013/423, art. 3, Sch.; S.I. 2013/651, art. 2(a)

[^{F11}88A Disciplinary powers: contravention of s.88(3)(c) or (e)

- (1) The FCA may take action against a sponsor under this section if it considers that the sponsor has contravened a requirement or restriction imposed on the sponsor by rules made as a result of section 88(3)(c) or (e).
- (2) If the FCA is entitled to take action under this section against a sponsor, it may do one or more of the following—
 - (a) impose a penalty on the sponsor of such amount as it considers appropriate;
 - (b) suspend, for such period as it considers appropriate, the sponsor's approval;
 - (c) impose, for such period as it considers appropriate, such limitations or other restrictions in relation to the performance of services to which the sponsor's approval relates as it considers appropriate;
 - (d) publish a statement to the effect that the sponsor has contravened a requirement or restriction imposed on the sponsor by rules made as a result of section 88(3)(c) or (e).
- (3) The period for which a suspension or restriction is to have effect may not exceed 12 months.
- (4) A suspension may relate only to the performance in specified circumstances of a service to which the approval relates.

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- (5) A restriction may, in particular, be imposed so as to require the sponsor to take, or refrain from taking, specified action.
- (6) The FCA may—
 - (a) withdraw a suspension or restriction; or
 - (b) vary a suspension or restriction so as to reduce the period for which it has effect or otherwise to limit its effect.
- (7) The FCA may not take action against a sponsor under this section after the end of the limitation period unless, before the end of that period, it has given a warning notice to the sponsor under section 88B(1).
- (8) “The limitation period” means the period of 3 years beginning with the first day on which the FCA knew that the sponsor had contravened the requirement or restriction.
- (9) For this purpose the FCA is to be treated as knowing that a sponsor has contravened a requirement or restriction if it has information from which that can reasonably be inferred.

Textual Amendments

- F11** Ss. 88A-88F substituted for s. 89 (24.1.2013 for specified purposes, 19.3.2013 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Financial Services Act 2012 \(c. 21\), ss. 18\(4\), 122\(3\)](#) (with [Sch. 20](#)); [S.I. 2013/113, art. 2\(1\)\(c\), Sch. Pt. 3](#); [S.I. 2013/423, art. 3, Sch.](#); [S.I. 2013/651, art. 2\(a\)](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Ss. 88A(2)(a)-(c) restricted (1.4.2013) by [The Financial Services Act 2012 \(Transitional Provisions\) \(Enforcement\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/441\), arts. 1\(1\), 4](#)
- C2** S. 88A(7) restricted (1.4.2013) by [The Financial Services Act 2012 \(Transitional Provisions\) \(Enforcement\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/441\), arts. 1\(1\), 4](#)

88B Action under s.88A: procedure and right to refer to Tribunal

- (1) If the FCA proposes to take action against a sponsor under section 88A, it must give the sponsor a warning notice.
- (2) A warning notice about a proposal to impose a penalty must state the amount of the penalty.
- (3) A warning notice about a proposal—
 - (a) to suspend an approval, or
 - (b) to impose a restriction in relation to the performance of a service,
 must state the period for which the suspension or restriction is to have effect.
- (4) A warning notice about a proposal to publish a statement must set out the terms of the statement.
- (5) If the FCA decides to take action against a sponsor under section 88A, it must give the sponsor a decision notice.
- (6) A decision notice about the imposition of a penalty must state the amount of the penalty.

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- (7) A decision notice about—
 - (a) the suspension of an approval, or
 - (b) the imposition of a restriction in relation to the performance of a service,must state the period for which the suspension or restriction is to have effect.
- (8) A decision notice about the publication of a statement must set out the terms of the statement.
- (9) If the FCA decides to take action against a sponsor under section 88A, the sponsor may refer the matter to the Tribunal.

Textual Amendments

F11 Ss. 88A-88F substituted for s. 89 (24.1.2013 for specified purposes, 19.3.2013 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Financial Services Act 2012 \(c. 21\), ss. 18\(4\), 122\(3\)](#) (with [Sch. 20](#)); [S.I. 2013/113, art. 2\(1\)\(c\), Sch. Pt. 3](#); [S.I. 2013/423, art. 3, Sch.](#); [S.I. 2013/651, art. 2\(a\)](#)

88C Action under s.88A: statement of policy

- (1) The FCA must prepare and issue a statement of its policy with respect to—
 - (a) the imposition of penalties, suspensions or restrictions under section 88A,
 - (b) the amount of penalties under that section, and
 - (c) the period for which suspensions or restrictions under that section are to have effect.
- (2) The FCA's policy in determining what the amount of a penalty should be, or what the period for which a suspension or restriction is to have effect should be, must include having regard to—
 - (a) the seriousness of the contravention in question in relation to the nature of the requirement concerned,
 - (b) the extent to which that contravention was deliberate or reckless, and
 - (c) whether the sponsor concerned is an individual.
- (3) The FCA may at any time alter or replace a statement issued under this section.
- (4) If a statement issued under this section is altered or replaced, the FCA must issue the altered or replacement statement.
- (5) In exercising, or deciding whether to exercise, its power under section 88A in the case of any particular contravention, the FCA must have regard to any statement of policy published under this section and in force at a time when the contravention in question occurred.
- (6) A statement issued under this section must be published by the FCA in the way appearing to the FCA to be best calculated to bring it to the attention of the public.
- (7) The FCA may charge a reasonable fee for providing a person with a copy of the statement.
- (8) The FCA must, without delay, give the Treasury a copy of any statement which it publishes under this section.

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Textual Amendments

F11 Ss. 88A-88F substituted for s. 89 (24.1.2013 for specified purposes, 19.3.2013 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Financial Services Act 2012 \(c. 21\)](#), [ss. 18\(4\), 122\(3\)](#) (with [Sch. 20](#)); [S.I. 2013/113, art. 2\(1\)\(c\)](#), [Sch. Pt. 3](#); [S.I. 2013/423, art. 3, Sch.](#); [S.I. 2013/651, art. 2\(a\)](#)

88D Statement of policy under s.88C: procedure

- (1) Before issuing a statement under section 88C, the FCA must publish a draft of the proposed statement in the way appearing to the FCA to be best calculated to bring it to the attention of the public.
- (2) The draft must be accompanied by notice that representations about the proposal may be made to the FCA within a specified time.
- (3) Before issuing the proposed statement, the FCA must have regard to any representations made to it in accordance with subsection (2).
- (4) If the FCA issues the proposed statement it must publish an account, in general terms, of—
 - (a) the representations made to it in accordance with subsection (2), and
 - (b) its response to them.
- (5) If the statement differs from the draft published under subsection (1) in a way which is, in the opinion of the FCA, significant, the FCA must (in addition to complying with subsection (4)) publish details of the difference.
- (6) The FCA may charge a reasonable fee for providing a person with a copy of a draft published under subsection (1).
- (7) This section also applies to a proposal to alter or replace a statement.

Textual Amendments

F11 Ss. 88A-88F substituted for s. 89 (24.1.2013 for specified purposes, 19.3.2013 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Financial Services Act 2012 \(c. 21\)](#), [ss. 18\(4\), 122\(3\)](#) (with [Sch. 20](#)); [S.I. 2013/113, art. 2\(1\)\(c\)](#), [Sch. Pt. 3](#); [S.I. 2013/423, art. 3, Sch.](#); [S.I. 2013/651, art. 2\(a\)](#)

88E Powers exercisable to advance operational objectives

- (1) The FCA may take action against a sponsor under this section if it considers that it is desirable to do so in order to advance one or more of its operational objectives.
- (2) If the FCA is entitled to take action under this section against a sponsor, it may—
 - (a) suspend, for such period as it considers appropriate, the sponsor's approval, or
 - (b) impose, for such period as it considers appropriate, such limitations or other restrictions in relation to the performance of services to which the sponsor's approval relates as it considers appropriate.
- (3) A suspension may relate only to the performance in specified circumstances of a service to which the approval relates.

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- (4) A restriction may, in particular, be imposed so as to require the sponsor to take, or refrain from taking, specified action.
- (5) The FCA may—
 - (a) withdraw a suspension or restriction, or
 - (b) vary a suspension or restriction so as to reduce the period for which it has effect or otherwise to limit its effect.
- (6) A person against whom the FCA takes action under this section may refer the matter to the Tribunal.

Textual Amendments

F11 Ss. 88A-88F substituted for s. 89 (24.1.2013 for specified purposes, 19.3.2013 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Financial Services Act 2012 \(c. 21\)](#), ss. **18(4)**, 122(3) (with [Sch. 20](#)); [S.I. 2013/113](#), art. 2(1)(c), [Sch. Pt. 3](#); [S.I. 2013/423](#), art. 3, [Sch.](#); [S.I. 2013/651](#), art. 2(a)

88F Action under s.88E: procedure

- (1) Action against a sponsor under section 88E takes effect—
 - (a) immediately, if the notice given under subsection (3) so provides, or
 - (b) on such later date as may be specified in the notice.
- (2) If the FCA—
 - (a) proposes to take action against a sponsor under that section, or
 - (b) takes action against a sponsor under that section with immediate effect,it must give the sponsor written notice.
- (3) The notice must—
 - (a) give details of the action,
 - (b) state the FCA's reasons for taking the action and for its determination as to when the action takes effect,
 - (c) inform the sponsor that the sponsor may make representations to the FCA within such period as may be specified in the notice (whether or not the matter has been referred to the Tribunal),
 - (d) inform the sponsor of when the action takes effect,
 - (e) inform the sponsor of the right to refer the matter to the Tribunal, and
 - (f) give an indication of the procedure on such a reference.
- (4) The FCA may extend the period allowed under the notice for making representations.
- (5) If the FCA decides—
 - (a) to take the action in the way proposed, or
 - (b) if the action has taken effect, not to rescind it,the FCA must give the sponsor written notice.
- (6) If the FCA decides—
 - (a) not to take the action in the way proposed,
 - (b) to take action under section 88E that differs from the action originally proposed, or

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- (c) to rescind action which has taken effect,
the FCA must give the sponsor written notice.
- (7) A notice under subsection (5) must—
 - (a) inform the sponsor of the right to refer the matter to the Tribunal, and
 - (b) give an indication of the procedure on such a reference.
- (8) A notice under subsection (6)(b) must comply with subsection (3).]

Textual Amendments

F11 Ss. 88A-88F substituted for s. 89 (24.1.2013 for specified purposes, 19.3.2013 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Financial Services Act 2012 \(c. 21\)](#), [ss. 18\(4\)](#), [122\(3\)](#) (with [Sch. 20](#)); [S.I. 2013/113](#), [art. 2\(1\)\(c\)](#), [Sch. Pt. 3](#); [S.I. 2013/423](#), [art. 3](#), [Sch.](#); [S.I. 2013/651](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#)

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act applied (with modifications) by [S.I. 2023/1347 reg. 8](#)
- Act power to apply conferred (temp. until 15.5.2039) by [2014 c. 21 s. 79\(4\)](#)
- Act power to apply conferred (temp. until 15.5.2039) by [2014 c. 21 s. 81\(10\)](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- Pt. 17 Ch. 3B inserted by [2023 c. 29 s. 64\(3\)](#)
- Pt. 20C inserted by [2016 c. 14 s. 30\(3\)](#)
- s. 31(1)(aa) inserted by [2021 c. 22 s. 22\(2\)](#)
- s. 32A inserted by [2021 c. 22 s. 22\(3\)](#)
- s. 32A power to apply (with modifications) conferred by [2021 c. 22 s. 23\(10\)](#)
- s. 36A and cross-heading inserted by [2021 c. 22 s. 22\(4\)](#)
- s. 71J and cross-heading inserted by [2021 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 4](#)
- s. 86(9A) inserted by [S.I. 2019/707 reg. 8\(9\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 8(6)-(10) omitted (6.9.2019) by virtue of S.I. 2019/1234, regs. 1(2), 13(c))
- s. 87A(11) inserted by [S.I. 2019/707 reg. 10\(5\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 10(4)(5) omitted (6.9.2019) by virtue of S.I. 2019/1234, regs. 1(2), 15(b))
- s. 124(10)(c)(i) word omitted by [S.I. 2019/310 reg. 5\(11\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 5(11)(b) omitted immediately before IP completion day by virtue of S.I. 2020/1385, regs. 1(4), 51(2)(e))
- s. 129(7)(a) word inserted by [S.I. 2019/310 reg. 5\(12\)\(a\)\(i\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 5(12)(a)(b) omitted immediately before IP completion day by virtue of S.I. 2020/1385, regs. 1(4), 51(2)(f))
- s. 129(7)(c) omitted and word by [S.I. 2019/310 reg. 5\(12\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 5(12)(a)(b) omitted immediately before IP completion day by virtue of S.I. 2020/1385, regs. 1(4), 51(2)(f))
- s. 214(5A) inserted by [2021 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 8](#)
- s. 261E(A1) inserted by [2023 c. 29 s. 64\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 367A inserted by [2021 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 10](#)
- s. 395(13)(h)(i) inserted by [2021 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 12\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 395(13)(bc)-(be) word inserted by [2021 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 12\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 395(14) inserted by [2021 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 12\(3\)](#)
- s. 427A(3) words substituted by [2002 c. 40 Sch. 17 para. 59](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 does not contain a section 427A.)
- Sch. 1ZA para. 32(c) and word inserted by [2021 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 18](#)
- Sch. 2A para. 19(2)(b)(iia) inserted by [2023 c. 29 Sch. 10 para. 19\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 2A2B power to apply (with modifications) conferred by [2021 c. 22 s. 23\(10\)](#)
- Sch. 2A power to apply (with modifications) conferred by [2021 c. 22 s. 23\(10\)](#)
- Sch. 2B inserted by [2021 c. 22 Sch. 7](#)
- Sch. 2B power to apply (with modifications) conferred by [2021 c. 22 s. 23\(10\)](#)
- Sch. 11A para. 5(3) inserted by [S.I. 2019/707 reg. 38\(5\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 38(2)-(5)(7)(8) omitted (6.9.2019) by virtue of S.I. 2019/1234, regs. 1(2), 20)

- Sch. 17A para. 12 words substituted by [S.I. 2019/662 reg. 13\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). Reg. 13(1) substituted (25.6.2020) by S.I. 2020/646, regs. 1(2)(c), 11(3))