Chapter 5

Financial Ombudsman Service Funding



5.4 **Information requirement**

5.4.1 R

- (1) A firm must provide the FCA by the end of February each year (or, if the firm has become subject to the Financial Ombudsman Service part way through the *financial year*, by the date requested by the *FCA*) with a statement of:
 - (a) the total amount of relevant business (measured in accordance with the appropriate tariff base(s)) which it conducted; or
 - (b) in the case of firms in industry blocks 2 and 4, the gross written premium for fees purposes as defined in ■ FEES 4 Annex 1AR (unless ■ FEES 5.4.1R(1A) applies),

as at or in the year to 31 December of the previous year as appropriate, including only business undertaken from a branch or establishment in the UK in relation to the tariff base for each of the relevant industry blocks set out in ■ FEES 5 Annex 1R. Firms that do not carry out their business from a branch or establishment in the UK will pay the minimum levy for each tariff base.

- (1A) A firm in industry blocks 2 and 4, has notified the FCA of the amount of gross written premium for fees purposes, as defined in ■ FEES 4 Annex 1AR, that relates to relevant business. The notification must be made by the 30 May each year.
 - (2) Paragraph (1) does not apply if the firm pays a general levy on a flat fee basis only or if it is the Bank of England.
- (3) If a firm cannot provide a statement of the total amount of relevant business as required by ■ FEES 5.4.1 R, it must provide the best estimate of the amount of relevant business that it conducted.
- (4) For the purpose of FEES 5.4.1R, references to relevant business for a firm which falls in industry block 16 or 17 and which so elects under ■ FEES 5 Annex 1R, are references to the firm's total amount of annual income reported in accordance with Part 3 of ■ FEES 4 Annex 1AR.
- (5) If a *firm* does not submit a complete statement by the date on which it is due in accordance with this *rule* and any prescribed submission procedures:
 - (a) the firm must pay an administrative fee of £250 (but not if it is already subject to an administrative fee under ■ FEES 4 Annex 2A, Part 1, Part 1 or ■ FEES 6.5.16 R for the same *financial year*); and
 - (b) the general levy will be calculated using (where relevant) the valuation or valuations of business applicable to the previous period, multiplied by the factor of 1.10 (or, if a firm has become

subject to the *Financial Ombudsman Service* part way through the *financial year*, on the basis of the information provided to the *FCA* for the purposes of ■ FEES 4.4.2 R) or on any other reasonable basis, making such adjustments as seem appropriate in subsequent levies once the true figures are known.

- (6) Where the FCA grants a person's application for annulment of a cancellation or variation of Part 4A permission under Schedule 6A to the Act and on the date the annulment takes effect the time for providing information in this rule has passed, then that time for compliance does not apply, but a person must comply with this rule on the date on which the person's annulment takes effect.
- 5.4.1-A R
- (1) In the case of *firms* in *industry blocks* 2 and 4 the requirements under FEES 5.4.1R apply in relation to the tariff bases(s) and tariff data in FEES 5 Annex 1R.

If a *firm* is a UK Solvency II firm in *industry blocks* 2 and 4 in ■ FEES 5 Annex 1R, the *FCA* may use tariff data from the previous reporting period for the periodic fees calculation if the *PRA* or the *FCA* has either:

- (a) not received the necessary tariff data in a timely basis in line with Part 3 and 5 of FEES 4 Annex 1AR; or
- (b) deemed the tariff data received to be incomplete or insufficiently reliable, by reference to a specific *firm* or across all or part of the *industry block*.
- The information requirement set out under FEES 5.4.1 R is applied under this direction to a fee-paying payment service provider and a fee-paying electronic money issuer.
- For firms in industry blocks 2 and 4, if the data source specified in the applicable tariff base in Part 3 of FEES 4 Annex 1AR is not available to the PRA or FCA for any reason and the same data is available to the PRA or FCA from an alternative source, the FCA may use that alternative source to calculate the tariff rates under FEES 5 Annex 1R.
- Failure to submit a statement in accordance with the *rules* in this chapter may also lead to the imposition of a financial penalty and other disciplinary sanctions (see DEPP 6.6.1 G to DEPP 6.6.5 G).
- (1) From 1 April 2025, a new definition of *relevant business* is introduced. This new definition applies in relation to business done with all types of *eligible complainant* described in DISP 2.7.3R. *Firms* must use this new definition for any *relevant business* conducted from 1 April 2025 onwards.

FEES 5: Financial Ombudsman Service Funding

- (2) Where the pre-April 2025 Glossary definition of relevant business applies (ie, to relevant business of a firm up until 31 March 2025):
 - (a) a firm should not provide a statement of relevant business if it deals only with eligible complainants who are not consumers; and
 - (b) FEES 5.4.1R does not apply in relation to business done with other types of eligible complainant described in ■ DISP 2.7.3R(2) to **(7)**.