

Chapter 4

Support of the Takeover Panel's Functions

4.3

Support of the *Takeover Panel's* Functions

- 4.3.1
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- A *firm* must not act, or continue to act, for any *person* in connection with a transaction to which the *Takeover Code* applies (including a *transaction* subject to rule 8 (Disclosure of dealings during the offer period; also indemnity and other arrangements) of the *Takeover Code*) if the *firm* has reasonable grounds for believing that the *person* in question, or his principal, is not complying or is not likely to comply with the *Takeover Code*.
- 4.3.2
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- (1) The *Takeover Panel* publishes notices regarding compliance with the *Takeover Code*. It may also, from time to time, name in those notices *persons* as *persons* that, in the *Takeover Panel's* opinion, are not likely to comply with the *Takeover Code*. Any notices of this type will be available on the *Takeover Panel's* website (www.thetakeoverpanel.org.uk).

(2) A *firm* should keep itself informed of *Takeover Panel* notices and take them into account in seeking to comply with ■ MAR 4.3.1 R. If the *Takeover Panel* were to name such a *person* in such a notice, the *FCA* would expect a *firm* to comply with ■ MAR 4.3.1 R by not acting or continuing to act for that *person*.

(3) The *FCA* would not regard a *firm* as in breach of ■ MAR 4.3.1 R where the *Takeover Panel* has indicated that it is content for the *firm* to act in relation to that transaction.
- 4.3.3
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- (1) Where a restriction under ■ MAR 4.3.1 R applies, among other things the *firm* is prevented from carrying on any *designated investment business* activity, or *communicating* or *approving* any *financial promotion*, in connection with a transaction to which the *Takeover Code* applies.

(2) Where a restriction under ■ MAR 4.3.1 R applies, the *firm* is not prevented from carrying on other activities (including *regulated activities*) in relation to that *person*. This includes *designated investment business* activity which is not in connection with a transaction to which the *Takeover Code* applies.
- 4.3.4
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- (1) Where a restriction under ■ MAR 4.3.1 R applies, an *authorised professional firm* is not prevented from providing professional advice or representation in any proceedings to the *person* where that falls within section 327(8) of the *Act*. This means that the *person* can obtain legal advice or representation in any proceedings from a law

firm and accounting advice from an accounting firm: see
■ MAR 4.4.1 R (2).

- (2) While the *FCA* recognises the duty of *authorised professional firms* to act in the best interests of their clients, the duty cannot override the provisions of the *Takeover Code* so as to require the *authorised professional firm* to provide services in breach of, or enable breach of, the *Takeover Code*.

4.3.5

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A *firm* must provide to the *Takeover Panel*:

- (1) any information and documents in its possession or under its control which the *Takeover Panel* requests to enable the *Takeover Panel* to perform its functions; and
- (2) such assistance as the *Takeover Panel* requests and as the *firm* is reasonably able to provide to enable the *Takeover Panel* to perform its functions.

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In ■ MAR 4.3.5 R, "documents" includes information recorded in any form and, in relation to information recorded otherwise than in legible form, references to providing documents include references to producing a copy of the information in legible form.

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As a result of section 413 of the *Act* (Limitation on powers to require documents), ■ MAR 4.3.5 R does not require a *firm* or an *authorised professional firm* to produce, disclose or permit the inspection of *protected items*.