

Chapter 3

The FCA's duties and powers

3.1 The FCA's duty to keep itself informed

3.1.1 G 325 of the *Act* (Authority's general duty) imposes on the *FCA* a duty to keep itself informed about:

- (1) the way in which *designated professional bodies* supervise and regulate the carrying on of *exempt regulated activities* by *exempt professional firms*; and
- (2) the way in which *exempt professional firms* carry on *exempt regulated activities*.

3.1.2 G The *FCA* keeps itself informed in a number of ways. A *designated professional body* has a duty under section 325(4) of the *Act* to cooperate with the *FCA*. Article 94 of the *Regulated Activities Order* requires each *designated professional body* to provide the *FCA* with the information it needs to maintain a public record of *persons* that are registered with the *FCA* to conduct *insurance distribution activity*. The *FCA* has made arrangements with each of the *designated professional bodies* about the information they provide to it, to include information about:

- (1) complaints and redress arrangements;
- (2) complaints volumes and their analysis;
- (3) disciplinary action;
- (4) supervisory activity;
- (5) the activities carried on by *exempt professional firms*, the risks arising from them and how they are mitigated, for example by monitoring activity or training and competence arrangements; and
- (6) the names and addresses of each of their *exempt professional firms* that carry on, or are proposing to carry on, *insurance distribution activity*, together with the details of the individuals within the management of the *exempt professional firms* who are responsible for the *insurance distribution activity*.

3.1.3 G Information may also be obtained from *exempt professional firms*, government departments, trade bodies, consumer organisations and *clients*

of *exempt professional firms*. The FCA may also commission or carry out reviews of the supervisory and regulatory activities of a *designated professional body* and commission or carry out research about, or surveys of, *exempt professional firms* or their *clients*.