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Via E-mail

27 February 2014

Our Ref: FOI3332

Dear

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), for the following information.

“I am interested in the number of applications for a banking licence received by the FCA.

- 1. Please provide me with the number of banking licence applications received by the FCA. Please provide this information on a quarterly basis since January 1 2008. If it is not possible to provide it on a quarterly basis, please provide it on an annual basis, to the year ending December 31.*

If you are unable to provide data for the last six years, could you please provide data for the last four years?

- 2. If it is possible, please also provide the number of applications for a variation of permissions by a bank because of a change in its ownership.”*

Your request has now been considered and, for ease of reference, I have numbered your request accordingly.

In relation to point 1 of your request, the information requested is shown in the table below.

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 (to date)
9	8	7	8	8	5	0

Please note that there is not a one-to-one correlation between the number of applications for a banking licence and the number of new banks authorised, as firms can withdraw their application at any time and reapply, sometimes more than once.

In relation to point 2 of your request, the figures shown below are the number of existing authorised firms who sought to vary their permissions in order to become a bank.

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 <i>(to date)</i>
3	1	4	2	0	2	0

Please be aware that, if a bank was the subject of a change in control (CiC), there could be any number of permissions that it might then seek to vary (for example, starting to sell certain products, not advising on others, etc.). Even if we saw a variation of permissions (VoP) from a bank under such circumstances it would be difficult to know whether this was as a direct result of the CiC or just a business as usual change.

If you have any queries then please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Information Access Team
Financial Conduct Authority