

Telephone:
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01 May 2014

Our Ref: FOI3403

BY EMAIL

Dear

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

We refer to your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), for the following information.

"Please tell me the number of not-profit debt advice and debt adjustment agencies registered with interim permissions as at 1st April."

On 10 April you clarified your request as follows:

"In essence, I would like to know how many charities/agencies offering free debt advice had an OFT license (or were including in things like the AdviceUK 'Group Debt License') and of these, how many had got Interim Permission as at 1st April OR had got full permission as at 1st April. I suspect that a number of these agencies have slipped through the net, and might be inadvertently working without a licence/permission at present."

Your request has now been considered and the relevant information you require is as follows:

There are 232 firms which had OFT licences as 'non-commercial debt advisors' which obtained an interim permission to continue this business.

Additionally 698 members of the non-commercial group licence bodies (Citizens Advice England and Wales, Citizens Advice Scotland, Citizens Advice Northern Ireland, Advice UK and Law Centres Network) were grandfathered into a full permission as a 'not for profit debt advice body' on 1 April.

Additionally, there are approximately 100 firms that were members of one of the non-commercial debt licences and that are eligible for grandfathering to the FCA. Although their records have not yet been transferred to us, these firms are authorised to continue their activities under their current licences.

If you have any queries then please contact me.

Yours sincerely
Information Access Team