

Minutes

Meeting: FCA Board

Date of Meeting: 17 September 2020

Venue: Meeting held via Skype

Present:	Charles Randell (Chair)	Alice Maynard
	Liam Coleman	Richard Lloyd
	Bernadette Conroy	Sam Woods (until 12.00)
	Sarah Hogg	Christopher Woolard
	Jeannette Lichner (until 13.50pm)	Tommaso Valletti

In attendance: Set out in Annex A

1 Quorum and declarations of interest

- 1.1 The meeting **noted** there was a quorum present and proceeded to business.
- 1.2 Sam Woods declared that his wife was consulting with Nikhil Rathi's transition team. The Board acknowledged the declaration but did not consider that it constituted a conflict in relation to the business to be discussed.
- 1.3 Sheree Howard and Jonathan Davidson declared their previous executive roles in industry in relation to General Insurance Pricing Practices Market Study. The Board acknowledged the declaration and agreed that both would recuse themselves from any discussions relating to the historic pricing practices of insurers.

2 General Insurance Pricing Practices Market Study

- 2.1 The market study was noted to be part of a programme of work seeking to ensure that general insurance markets work well for consumers, in support of the 2020/21 strategic business priority to deliver fair value in a digital age.
 - 2.2 The Board was briefed on the package of proposed remedies devised to address the harms identified by the market study's interim report published in October 2019. It was noted that these remedies sought to increase the intensity of competition in the general insurance market and enable consumers to make better informed, long-term decisions about their insurance policies.
 - 2.3 The potential impact of the remedies on competition, the role of price comparison websites and pricing was discussed. It was anticipated that greater competition would result in significantly better overall outcomes for consumers, although it was recognised that the proposed remedies might initially result in higher new business prices for some consumers. Firms' reactions and the ongoing effect of the remedies on the market would be closely monitored following implementation.
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- 2.4 The Board noted the importance of accompanying communications in conveying the FCA's commitment to delivering fair value in a digital age as well as these communications being aligned with any messaging about the wider strategic business priority and the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2.5 The Board considered whether the findings from the general insurance market were indicative of practices in other insurance markets and noted that the learning from this market study would be taken into account when considering similar issues in other markets as necessary.
- 2.6 The Board **approved** the package of remedies for the pricing practices consultation and the accompanying implementation timetable. The Board also **approved** publication of the value measures policy statement and made the Value Measures Reporting and Monitoring Instrument 2020.

3 Perimeter Annual Report 2019/20

- 3.1 The Board was briefed on the purpose, audience and intended issues to be covered in the report.
- 3.2 The Board acknowledged that the perimeter was regularly tested by firm and market innovation and noted that the report sought to communicate the complexity of the FCA's perimeter through articulation of the associated potential harm.
- 3.3 The Board noted the importance of accompanying communications in conveying why the issues covered in the report were important, including reference to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and the respective roles and responsibilities of the FCA and HM Treasury.
- 3.4 The Board considered the interplay with, or potential inclusion of, additional issues including: cryptocurrencies, online harms and debt advice, particularly in light of the challenges posed by Covid-19 pandemic.
- 3.5 The Board **agreed** the framing and content of the report and sought sight of the final draft so that any additional comments could be given offline.

4 CEO Covid Update

- 4.1 The Board noted the latest developments in the FCA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including a summary of the external and internal risks and issues.
- 4.2 In particular, the Board noted the announcement of the business interruption insurance test case judgment and potential next steps, as well as the ongoing work to support mortgage and consumer credit consumers, including the continued support for those in enduring financial difficulty.

5 Decisions of the Board:

- 5.1 The Board approved the following appointments to the FCA Independent Panels:
 - i. The re-appointment of Keith Richards as a member of the Consumer Panel, for a further three-year period, with effect from 1 November 2020;

- ii. The appointment of Paul Feeney as Deputy Chair of the Practitioner Panel, from 1 October 2020 to 31 December 2021;
- iii. The re-appointment of Michelle Scrimgeour as a member of the Practitioner Panel, for a further three-year period, with effect from 1 October 2020;
- iv. The appointment of James Taylor as a member of the Listing Authority Advisory Panel, for a three-year period, with effect from 23 September 2020.

5.2 The Board approved the following appointments to Board committees:

- i. The appointment of Liam Coleman as a member of the Remuneration Committee with immediate effect;
- ii. The appointment of Richard Lloyd as Chair of the Oversight Committee with immediate effect.

6 Any other Business

6.1 There being no further business, the meeting closed.

Charles Randell
Chair

ANNEX A: Attendees**Attending for all, or substantially all of the meeting:**

Jonathan Davidson	Executive Director, Supervision – Retail & Authorisations
Sheree Howard	Executive Director, Risk and Compliance Oversight
Sean Martin	General Counsel
Sheldon Mills	Interim Executive Director, Strategy & Competition
Georgina Philippou	Chief Operating Officer
Mark Steward	Executive Director, Enforcement and Market Oversight
Beverley Walker	Manager, Central Secretariat
Andrew Whyte	Director, Communications

Attending for the following items:

2	Kate Collyer	Director, Chief Economist
	Matt Brewis	Director, General Insurance
	Robin Finer	Head of Department, Retail Competition
	Peter Lukacs	Manager, Retail Competition
	Edward Oxley	Manager, General Insurance & Protection
	Venetia Jackson	Technical Specialist, GCD, Investment Insurance & Redress
3	Richard Monks	Director, Strategy
	Alex Smith	Manager, Culture & Governance
	Caroline Halstead-Smith	Manager, Strategy