

Alison Thewliss MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

01 December 2020

Our Ref: SA201120

Dear Alison,

During the Financial Services Bill Committee on 17 November, you asked me how many firms we are likely to remove from the Financial Services Register if we are given the power, proposed in the Bill, to cancel the authorisation of firms more swiftly and efficiently than under the existing statutory process.

We cannot quantify with any precision how many firms' authorisations we would cancel with the new power. Before exercising it, we must believe that a firm is no longer carrying out any regulated financial services for which it is authorised based on evidence, such as the firm's failure to pay fees or file returns. We must then notify the firm of the action we intend to take. A firm is able to exit this process by simply notifying us that it is carrying on a regulated activity. Nonetheless, we believe that the power will go a great way to helping us keep our Financial Services Register as up to date as possible, so that consumers considering a financial product or service have the information they need to take informed decisions. I should add that the power, and the process we must follow when exercising it, mirrors the existing power of the Registrar of Companies to strike a company off the register at Companies House if the Registrar has reasonable cause to believe that a company is not carrying on business or in operation, for example, because the Registrar has not received company documents that should have been sent to him, or mail that the Registrar has sent to a company's registered office is returned undelivered.

I hope that this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



**Sheldon Mills**  
**Interim Executive Director of Strategy and Competition**

cc. Dr Rupa Huq MP, Philip Davies MP, House of Commons Scrutiny Unit