



FCA and Practitioner Panel Survey 2024

Please write your firm's unique survey ID in the box below. This can be found in your survey invitation email.

Survey ID:	
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Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

How the information will be used

Your feedback is important and the results of this survey will be used to improve the work of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). In reporting the survey answers, Verian will always group responses so that no individual's or firm's responses can be identified. Your individual response to the survey will therefore be **completely confidential**. This is in accordance with the Market Research Society Code of Conduct.

The intention is to publish the results of this year's survey in summer 2024.

Completing the questionnaire

The questionnaire should be completed by the most senior person (Chief Executive or equivalent) in your firm or group. We estimate the questionnaire should take about 10-15 minutes to complete and there is an opportunity towards the end of the survey to provide comments on any topics that you feel have not been addressed elsewhere in the questionnaire.

Please read the rest of the information on this page, then turn over the page to start the survey.

How do I fill in the questionnaire?

- 1. Most questions can be answered by putting a cross in the box next to the answer that applies to you, like this:
- 2. Some questions will ask you to "**Please cross as many boxes as apply**." When you see this instruction, please cross as many boxes as apply to you.
- 3. A small number of questions will ask you to write your response in the box provided.
- 4. Please try to answer every question. If there are any questions that you can't answer, simply cross the 'Don't know' box.
- 5. If you have made a mistake or change your mind about an answer you have given, completely block out the box you have crossed like this and then put a cross in your preferred box.
- 6. Please use black or blue ink to complete the questionnaire.

We look forward to receiving your feedback.

Where can I get more information?

⊠ : fcappsurvey@veriangroup.com

- 🖀: 0800 015 0302 (9am-5pm)
- □: www.fcapractitionerpanelsurvey.co.uk

Information about how your data is processed and information about your rights in relation to the data we collect is available on the back of the accompanying letter. You can also access our privacy policy at:

www.veriangroup.com/uk-surveys

The	first questions are about your general impr	ressions of the <u>FCA</u>
Q1	Taking into account all of your firm's dealin with the relationship?	ngs with the <u>FCA</u> , how satisfied are you
	Please give an answer on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is Please cross <u>one</u> box only	'Extremely dissatisfied' and 10 is 'Extremely satisfied'.
	Extremely dissatisfied	Extremely satisfied

Section 1: ECA Performa

ssatisfie	d								satisfied
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Overall, from your firm's perspective, how effective has the FCA been in regulating Q2 the financial services industry in the last year?

Please give an answer on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is 'Not at all effective' and 10 is 'Extremely effective'. Please cross <u>one</u> box only

Not at all effective									Extremely effective
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Section 2: FCA Aims and Objectives

The FCA has a single strategic objective of ensuring relevant financial markets function well and three operational objectives:

- Securing an appropriate degree of protection for consumers
- Protecting and enhancing the integrity of the UK financial system
- Promoting effective competition in the interests of consumers in the financial markets

How confident are you that the FCA's oversight of the industry delivers on the **Q3** following statutory objectives?

Please cross one box in each row

Objective number	Objective	Very confident	Fairly confident	 Not at all confident	Don't know
1	Ensuring relevant financial markets function well				
2	Securing an appropriate degree of protection for consumers				
3	Protecting and enhancing the integrity of the UK financial system				
4	Promoting effective competition in the interests of consumers in the financial markets				

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Q4 How well would you say your firm understands what the <u>FCA</u> is trying to achieve through the following objectives?

⇒ Please cross <u>one</u> box in each row

Objective number	Objective	Very well	Fairly well	Not very well	Not at all	Don't know
1	Ensuring relevant financial markets function well					
2	Securing an appropriate degree of protection for consumers					
3	Protecting and enhancing the integrity of the UK financial system					
4	Promoting effective competition in the interests of consumers in the financial markets					

Q5 Alongside its primary strategic and operational objectives, the <u>FCA</u> has a secondary international competitiveness and growth objective (SICGO).

How confident are you that the <u>FCA's</u> oversight of the industry delivers on this objective?

Please cross <u>one</u> box only

- □ Very confident
- □ Fairly confident
- □ Not very confident
- □ Not at all confident
- 🔲 Don't know

Q6 How well would you say your firm understands what the <u>FCA</u> is trying to achieve through the secondary international competitiveness and growth objective (SICGO)?
 Please cross one box only

Very well	Fairly well	Not very well	Not at all well	Don't know

Q7 Over the last 12 months, would you say your firm's trust in the FCA has...
⇒ Please cross one box only ⊠
□ ...increased
□ ...decreased

- ... or stayed the same
- Don't know

If your firm is dual regulated (that is, regulated by both the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority) please answer Q8. Otherwise, please go to Q9.

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Q8 And to what extent would you agree or disagree with the following statements? ⇒ Please cross <u>one</u> box in each row ⊠

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
My firm has a clear understanding of the distinction between the <u>FCA's</u> regulatory objectives and those of the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA)						
The <u>FCA</u> and the PRA are appropriately co-ordinated in their supervision of my firm, taking into account their respective regulatory objectives						

Section 3: Communication and Engagement

The next questions are about the ways in which the FCA communicates with your firm.

Q9 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please cross one box in each row 🗵

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Overall, the <u>FCA's</u> communications to my firm are <u>CLEAR</u>						
Overall, the <u>FCA's</u> communications to my firm are CONSISTENT						
Overall, the <u>FCA's</u> communications to my firm are <u>RELEVANT</u>						

Q10 Thinking about each of the different channels of communication that the <u>FCA</u> uses, would you say that the <u>FCA</u> contacts your firm too often, not enough, or would you say the level of contact is about right?

⇒ Please cross <u>one</u> box in each row

	Too often	About right	Not enough	Don't know					
Telephone									
Video call									
Email									
Postal mail									
In person meetings									
Through <u>FCA</u> hosted events (e.g. webinars, conferences)									
Through social media (e.g. X (formerly known as Twitter), LinkedIn)									
Q11 What information sources do you use to learn about regulation and the <u>FCA</u> ? ⇒ Please cross as many boxes as apply ⊠									

- **<u>FCA</u>** hosted events
- **<u>FCA</u>** speakers at industry events
- External advisers (lawyers, consultants etc.)
- □ FCA Regulation round-up
- □ FCA Supervision Hub (formerly customer contact centre)

<u>FCA</u> speeches

FCA supervisors

- Letters from the <u>FCA</u>
 The media
 LinkedIn
- LinkedIn

□ FCA website

- Trade associations
- Blogs
- Podcasts
- None of the above
- Q12 In which of the following ways, if any, has your firm engaged with the <u>FCA's</u> work to develop or change rules in their Handbook in the last 12 months?

Please cross <u>as many</u> boxes as apply

- Responded to an FCA consultation, discussion paper or other paper
- Participated in a roundtable run by the FCA
- □ Joined an <u>FCA</u> webinar or other event
- Participated in a related discussion facilitated by another organisation, such as a trade association
- □ In some other way (please specify)

My firm has not engaged with the <u>FCA's</u> work in this area in the last 12 months
 Don't know

Q13	How well does the <u>FCA</u> engage with stakeholders when developing new regulations and regulatory reforms?
	Please cross <u>one</u> box only
	Very well
	Fairly well
	Not very well
	□ Not at all well
	Don't know
Q14	And, in general, to what extent do you agree or disagree that <u>FCA</u> engagement with stakeholders leads to more effective regulations?
	Strongly agree
	Tend to agree
	Neither agree nor disagree
	Tend to disagree
	Strongly disagree
	Don't know

Section 4: Impact of FCA Regulation

The next questions are about your views on the impact of <u>FCA</u> regulation.

Q15 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

➡ Please cross <u>one</u> box in each row

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
The work of the <u>FCA</u> enhances the reputation of the UK as a financial centre						
<u>FCA</u> regulation has helped my firm to deliver better outcomes for consumers						
The <u>FCA</u> acts proportionately, so that the costs imposed on firms are proportionate to the benefits gained						
<u>FCA</u> regulation is aligned with rules imposed by other regulators						

Q16 And to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? ⇒ Please cross <u>one</u> box in each row ⊠

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	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
The regulatory framework is clear and well-understood by all market participants						
The regulatory framework is trusted by all market participants						
The <u>FCA</u> is effective at supporting the development of digital markets and new technologies in financial products and services						
The work of the <u>FCA</u> is effective in promoting international trade in the financial services industry						
The <u>FCA</u> is able to adapt its regulatory requirements to respond efficiently to innovation and new challenges						

Q17 The next question is for principal firms who appoint and are responsible for overseeing appointed representatives. An appointed representative is a firm or person who carries on a regulated activity on behalf, and under the responsibility of, a firm authorised by the <u>FCA</u> (the principal firm).

As a result of the <u>FCA's</u> actions in the last 12 months, how have principal firms in your sector changed the way they oversee their Appointed Representatives?

Has oversight in your sector...

Please cross <u>one</u> box only

- Increased
- □ Stayed the same
- Decreased
- □ Non-applicable firms in my sector do not appoint or oversee Appointed Representatives
- 🔲 Don't know

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Section 5: Enforcement and Identifying Risk

In the next section we will ask about the <u>FCA's</u> role in identifying emerging risks within the industry and associated enforcement action.

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Q18 Do you feel there are any significant or emerging risks in your market that the <u>FCA</u> is not currently aware of?

Please cross <u>one</u> box only

Yes

🗌 No

🗌 Don't know

Q19 Which of the following best describes your view of the <u>FCA's</u> approach to identifying risk?

In order to identify risks, would you say that...

Please cross <u>one</u> box only

- …the <u>FCA</u> is mainly <u>**REACTIVE**</u>, that is they rely on information/ intelligence provided by the industry
- □ ...the <u>FCA</u> is mainly **PROACTIVE**, that is they take steps to uncover risks themselves
- \Box ...the <u>FCA</u> uses both approaches equally
- 🔲 Don't know

Q20 As far as you are aware, which of the following enforcement actions has the <u>FCA</u> imposed on firms or individuals in the last 12 months?

Please include anything you know about through personal knowledge, notifications from the <u>FCA</u>, or wider media coverage.

Please cross <u>as many</u> boxes as apply

- □ Issued a public censure ⊃ Go to Q21
- □ Issued a fine/ financial penalty ⊃ Go to Q21
- Limited a firm or individual's activities/ Withdrawn selected permissions Co to Q21
- Withdrawn authorised status Co to Q21
- □ Launched criminal prosecution ⊃ Go to Q21
- Something else (please write in) Co to Q22

□ Not aware of any enforcement actions being imposed ⊃ Go to Q22

Don't know So to Q22

Q21 How effective do you think each of the following enforcement actions has been in reducing further harm to the industry?

➡ Please cross <u>one</u> box in each row

	Very effective	Fairly effective	Not very effective	Not at all effective	Don't know
Issuing of a public censure					
Issuing of a fine/ financial penalty					
Limiting of a firm or individual's activities/ Withdrawal of selected permission					
Withdrawal of authorised status					
Launch of criminal prosecution					

If, at Q21, you selected either 'Limited activities/ Withdrawn selected permissions' or 'Withdrawn authorised status', please go straight to Q23. Otherwise, please answer Q22.

Q22 As you may know, the <u>FCA</u> can withdraw permissions from firms or individuals they find to be in breach of regulations, to stop them from operating.

As far as you are aware, has the <u>FCA</u> withdrawn permissions from any firms or individuals?

Please cross <u>one</u> box only

- Yes
- No No
- Don't know

Q23 Thinking now about <u>ANY</u> enforcement action the <u>FCA</u> has taken as a result of poor business practices by another firm or individual. What actions, if any, have your firm taken in response to such enforcement action?

- Please cross <u>as many</u> boxes as apply
- Implemented a specific review of your own business
- Carried out a review of your conduct risks
- □ Made a change to your business model
- □ Called meeting(s) to specifically discuss the issue
- □ Introduced or changed training modules
- Something else (please write in)

□ None of these

🔲 Don't know

The <u>FCA</u> Threshold Conditions are the minimum conditions which a firm is required to satisfy - and continue to satisfy - in order to be given and to retain permission by the <u>FCA</u>.

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Q24 How familiar is your firm with the FCA's Threshold Conditions?

- Please cross <u>one</u> box only
- □ Very familiar
- □ Fairly familiar
- □ Not very familiar
- □ Not at all familiar
- 🔲 Don't know

Section 6: People

The next questions are about <u>FCA</u> staff and <u>FCA</u> supervisors.



Otherwise, please go straight to Q26.

Q25 In relation to your <u>FCA</u> supervisors, to what extent to do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Please cross <u>one</u> box in each row

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
My <u>FCA</u> supervisors are knowledgeable about <u>FCA</u> rules and requirements						
My <u>FCA</u> supervisors have sufficient experience						
My <u>FCA</u> supervisors exercise good judgement						
My <u>FCA</u> supervisors are appropriately qualified and have the necessary skills to undertake the role						
My <u>FCA</u> supervisors' approach is consistent with that from the leaders of the <u>FCA</u> , and the <u>FCA's</u> wider policy approach						
My <u>FCA</u> supervisors have sufficient knowledge to understand my firm						

Q26 In relation to <u>FCA staff</u> (e.g. the <u>FCA</u> Supervision Hub, [formerly <u>FCA</u> customer contact centre]), to what extent to do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

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➡ Please cross <u>one</u> box in each row

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
<u>FCA</u> staff are knowledgeable about <u>FCA</u> rules and requirements						
FCA staff have sufficient experience						
<u>FCA</u> staff are appropriately qualified and have the necessary skills to undertake the role						
Guidance provided by <u>FCA</u> staff is consistent with that from the leaders of the <u>FCA</u> , and the <u>FCA's</u> wider policy approach						

Section 7: <u>FCA</u> Focus and Processes

Q27 Thinking now about the <u>FCA's</u> work to promote effective competition within the industry. Do you think the emphasis the <u>FCA</u> places on the following areas is too much, about right or too little?

➡ Please cross <u>one</u> box in each row

	Too much emphasis	About right	Too little emphasis	Don't know
Supporting innovation within the industry				
Regulating the price of products and services				
Controlling the entry of firms into new markets				
Regulating the quality of products and services				
Making it easier for consumers to understand and compare products and services				
Making it easier for consumers to switch products and services				

⇒ Please cross <u>one</u> box only

	 Yes No Don't know 						
Q29	Would you say that over the la of a priority for your firm? Please cross one box only ⊠ Yes No Don't know 	st 12 mon	iths opera	ational res	silience ha	as become	e more
Q30	 Which of the following best de information requests your firm Please cross one box only ⊠ Fewer than I think we should re About right A lot, but I understand why it is More than seems necessary for Don't know 	receives t eceive s needed	from the <u> </u>	<u>FCA</u> ?	the <u>numb</u>	<u>er</u> of data	a/
Q31	 Q31 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about data/ information requests your firm receives from the <u>FCA</u>? Please cross one box in each row X 						
		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
to co	<u>CA</u> gives my firm enough time mpile the data/ information that request						
-	rm has sufficient resources to and to <u>FCA</u> I data/ information ests						
infor	<u>CA</u> only asks for data/ mation about my firm that they ot get from other sources						
	<u>CA</u> makes good use of the data/ mation that my firm provides						
	nformation requested by the <u>FCA</u> en difficult to collate						
	<u>CA</u> reviews the information it ests and feeds back in a timely ner						
		1	2				

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Q28 Are you aware of the <u>FCA's</u> work to ensure firms are operationally resilient?

tion 9. Moultot Excellence
Otherwise, please go to Q38.
If your firm is involved in wholesale markets, please answer Q32-Q37.

Section 8: Market Excellence

The next questions are about your views on the impact of FCA regulation specifically in relation to wholesale markets.

Q32 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? ×

PI	ease	cross	<u>one</u>	box	in	each	row	2
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	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
The <u>FCA</u> is effective in regulating wholesale markets						
<u>FCA</u> regulation supports market participants determining fair value in wholesale markets						
<u>FCA</u> regulation ensures the integrity of wholesale markets						
<u>FCA</u> regulation in wholesale markets is proportional in terms of the benefits versus the costs						

Q33 Over the last 12 months, do you think the UK's position in wholesale markets has... Please cross <u>one</u> box only

□ Strengthened

□ Weakened

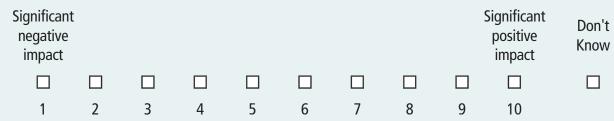
or has remained the same during this time

□ Don't know

Q34 Taking everything into account, can you tell us how the FCA's actions have impacted the UK's position in the wholesale markets during this time.

Please give an answer on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is 'Significant negative impact' and 10 is 'Significant positive impact'.





Section 9: Market Abuse
Market abuse can occur in a number of ways:

- Delayed or misleading disclosures listed issuers do not disclose inside information in a timely manner or issue misleading statements
- Insider dealing people with access to inside information disclose it unlawfully and/ or use it to trade in their own financial interests
- Market manipulation participants trade in a way designed to manipulate the price of a financial instrument

Q35 Overall, how much of an issue do you believe market abuse is in the UK? Do you feel this is a...

Please cross <u>one</u> box only

- Very big issue
- □ Fairly big issue
- Not a very big issue
- Not an issue at all
- 🔲 Don't know

Q36 Over the last 12 months, how effective do you think the <u>FCA</u> has been in protecting UK markets from...

Please cross <u>one</u> box in each row

	Very effective	Fairly effective	Not very effective	Not at all effective	Don't know
Delayed or misleading disclosures from listed issuers					
Insider dealing					
Market manipulation					

Q37 How effective has the <u>FCA</u> been in combatting market abuse in the UK compared to regulators in other global markets. Has the <u>FCA</u> been...

➡ Please cross <u>one</u> box only

- Much better
- □ A little better
- □ About the same
- □ A little worse
- □ Much worse
- 🔲 Don't know

Q38 Now thinking about your opinion of the <u>FCA</u> in general, if you could choose one thing you would like to see the <u>FCA</u> doing more or less of, or doing differently/ better, what would it be?

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Please write your answer in the box below

Section 11: Staying in touch

Q39	Would you be willing to be re-contacted by Verian regarding this research?
	You can be assured that your name will never be passed to anyone outside of Verian without your permission.
	Please cross <u>one</u> box only I
	Yes
	□ No

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. If you do not intend to enter your responses into the online survey, please return this paper questionnaire to the following address:

Verian PO Box 1071 Cressex Business Park High Wycombe HP12 3WY

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