

FCA Pricing Practices and Product Governance

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Branko Ltd

FCA compliance consultants

- * BIBA/AMII Compliance Manual
- * Engaging Events
- * Tailored Solutions









Today's event

- Thank you to your LI for hosting
- Verbal and chat forum questions welcome
- Please complete the feedback survey
- You will get the slides
- Feel free to connect with me on Linked in.



Learning outcomes...

By the end of this event you will have gained an insight into:

- The new rules to end price-walking
- Changes to internal policies that have to be made
- What product governance arrangements will be including existing distribution arrangements
- An understanding of "value" when it comes to all forms of general insurance



Bear in mind...

- Today is not formal 'advice'
- It is an <u>overview</u> in my own words of the key issues
- Please take up whatever professional help you need to ensure your business remains compliant
- Firms will clearly differ in terms of what is needed and a gap analysis should be created



Today

- 1. Overview
- 2. Pricing
- 3. Auto-renewals
- 4. Product Governance
- 5. Reporting Requirements



Myths

- This only applies to motor and household (commercial also)
- There is very little to do (amazed as to how much has to be done)
- The way I make extra money won't be challenged
 (this is under the spotlight and not too sure what customers will say when you tell them)
- This is optional... (err no!!)



FCA Survey

- Sample of Insurers, Price Comparison Websites and Insurance Intermediaries to complete a short survey to assess their preparedness
- The survey was sent to firms on 16 July 2021 from the following mailbox: <u>GIPricingPractices@fca.org.uk</u>
- Firms had to respond by 9 August 2021
- 50 questions (FCA called it a short survey!)
- While FCA are not seeking this information under formal information-gathering powers, they expect firms to complete it
- Small changes made to rules 16 Aug 2021



General Insurance Intermediaries & Insurers

Product value and coronavirus guidance

We published the <u>findings of our review</u> into how firms responded to our requirements and expectations of their approach to product governance and value, and our related guidance published in response to Covid-19.

All firms should consider our findings and any actions they need to take. Many firms still have work to do and this is a final opportunity to identify and address gaps or shortcomings in their approach to meeting the new product governance requirements set out in PS21/5, before their implementation on 1 October 2021. After this date, firms who cannot evidence compliance risk regulatory action.

Email: GIPricingPractices@fca.org.uk



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18 October 2021

Dear CEO

Enhanced Product Governance rules and update on Senior Manager Attestation requirement

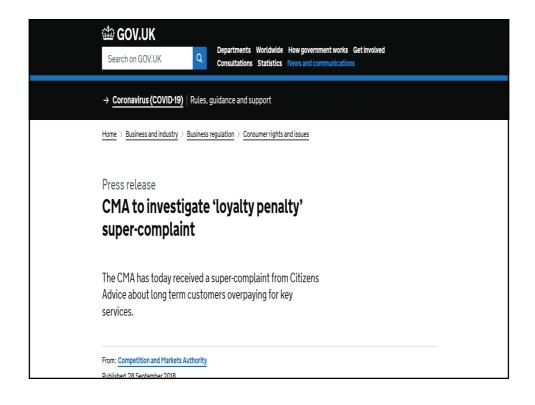
Following the publication of our <u>final report</u> on our General Insurance Pricing Practices (GIPP) market study, in May 2021 we published our <u>policy statement</u> setting out final rules on a package of remedies, designed to make general insurance markets work better for consumers.

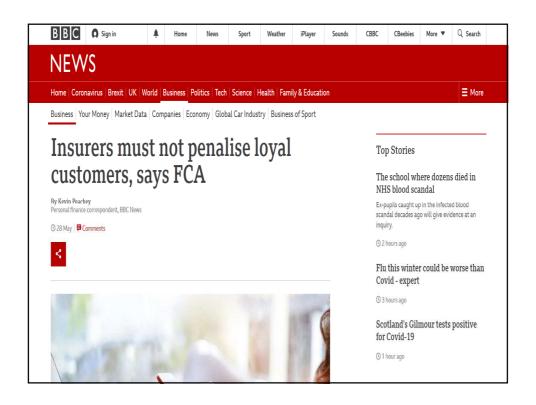
These rules include enhanced rules on product governance, which came into force on 1 October 2021, and which apply to manufacturers and distributors of all general insurance or pure protection products (except contracts of large risks or reinsurance contracts). Rules on pricing for home and motor insurance, auto-renewal cancellation, premium finance disclosure rules and reporting requirements, come into force on 1 January 2022.

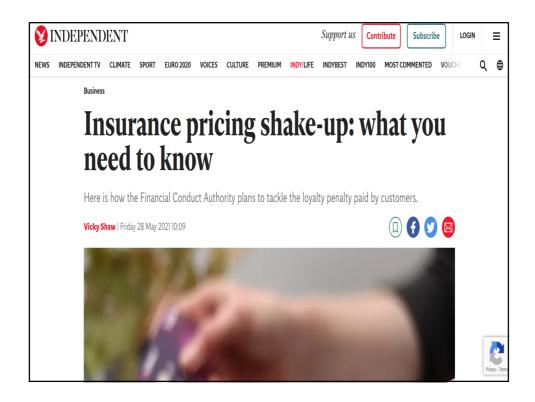
Readiness survey findings

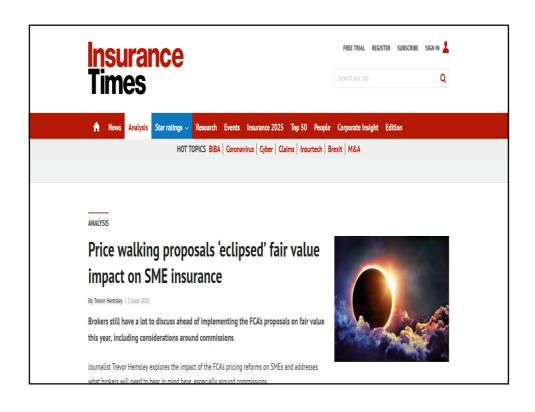
In August 2021, we conducted a market survey to assess firms' readiness to comply with the GIPP remedies. The survey was completed by a sample of general insurance intermediaries of

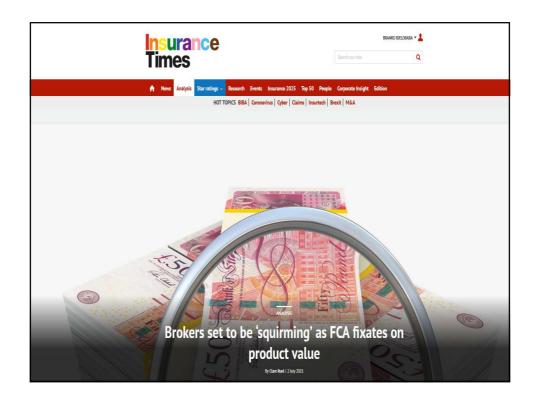
1. Overview

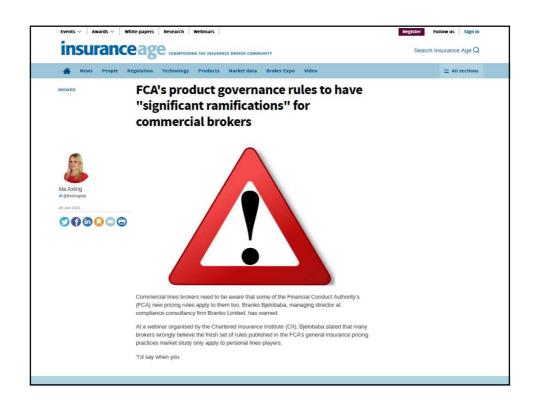


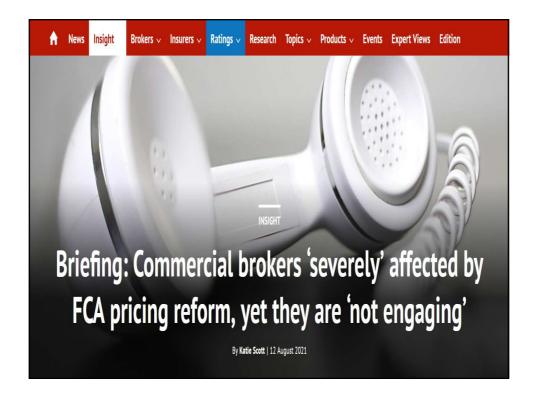


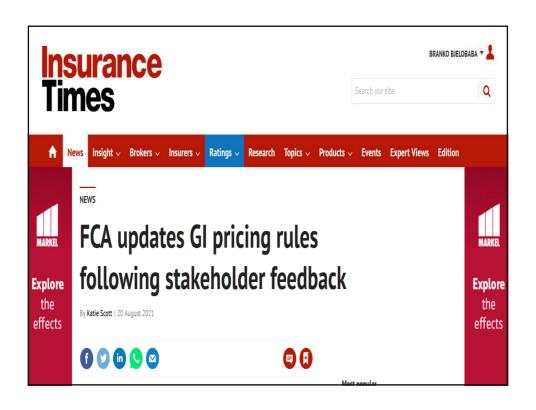














i Pricing Remedy

- FCA is banning price-walking as it estimates 6m motor and home customers would have saved £1.2bn had they paid the average price for their actual risk
- Unsuitably low-priced deals for some will end
- Most brokers should be OK as they don't set the price but discounts and incentives will fall under the spotlight and should be available to all
- Larger fees should not be charged to renewing customers to recoup losses
- If you offer incentives or discounts you could be a price-setting intermediary so more rules
- · Add-ons, to include premium finance, are caught
- Personal attestation from a SM needed



ii Product Governance

- Requirements apply to home, motor, other personal lines, premium finance AND commercial
- Firms to assess value of products at least every 12 months and if they are acting in their customer's best interests
- Most requirements fall on the manufacturer (generally the insurer but can incl the broker where they design, develop, create and/or underwrite)
- Distribution + remuneration arrangements incl



iii Auto-renewals

 Firms must provide retail consumers with a range of easy and accessible methods of opting out of any policy that they buy (private health, medical and pet insurance exempt)



iv Reporting

- All firms doing motor and household
- Enhanced reporting for price-setting intermediaries to incl an annual attestation from a Senior Manager
- Otherwise data on premium finance, charges and add-ons split by tenure of customers





General insurance pricing practices market study

Feedback to CP20/19 and final rules

Policy Statement

PS21/5

May 2021

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217 page Policy Statement 87 pages of new rules

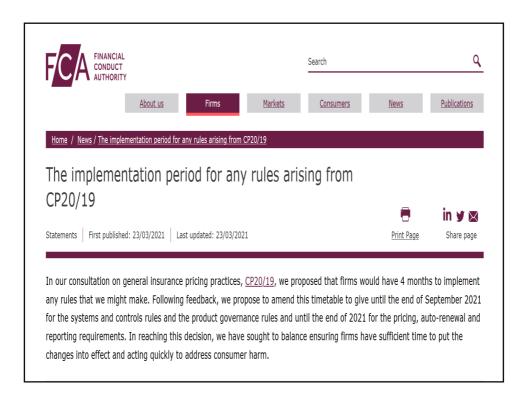
(The word "value" is mentioned 400+ times)



Sourcebooks to change

- 1. SYSC
- 2. GEN
- 3. ICOBS
- 4. PROD
- 5. SUP





- 30 September 2021 SYSC and Product Governance
- 31 December 2021 Pricing, Premium Finance, Auto-renewals and Reporting

We expect firms to implement any rules that we introduce on or before the proposed deadlines. We will check they are on track and are moving promptly to implement any final rules. To that end, we will closely monitor how firms implement their change programmes and will be checking their progress regularly.

We do not want to see consumer harm continue into 2022 and have a range of tools and powers available to us. We will consider taking action against firms where there is evidence that they have not taken sufficient steps to implement the rules by the implementation date, including action to ensure they take appropriate steps to repair any harm that arises, especially financial loss to consumers.

The pricing rules would apply to renewal notices sent after the rules take effect (rather than to policies renewing after the rules take effect). As renewal notices are sent some time before policies renew, this means firms have the full implementation period to make the necessary changes to their business models.



2. Pricing



Scope

- Motor + home + additional products sold alongside (incl premium finance but not monthly renewable contracts)
- New rule that will require firms to offer a renewal price that is <u>no</u> higher than the ENBP for that customer through the same sales channel
- Insurers and intermediaries involved in pricesetting (any involvement in setting the gross price paid for the core product or any element of that premium or the price of additional products)
- Brokers that determine their own remuneration (net rates) or impose fees are included
- Gibraltar based firms also included



Further...

- Price-walking is banned
- Applies also to closed books (what is now the most equivalent product)
- FCA will use anti-avoidance measures
- Senior Managers to personally attest (and report to the FCA) 3 months after rules come into force and then annually that pricing models comply
- · Records of pricing considerations to be kept
- Individual and multi-product discounts incl (renewing customers to benefit just as much as new customers therefore)

Incentives

Type of incentive	Must be reflected in ENBP?
Toys	No
Carbon off-setting	No
A percentage chance to win back the premium	No
Points in a retail loyalty scheme	Yes
Retail vouchers	Yes
Cashback	Yes
A free add-on	Yes
One month free	Yes
A monetary discount on the premium	Yes
A percentage discount on the premium	Yes

The examples in the table above are not exhaustive, as it is not possible for us to anticipate every type of incentive that firms may offer their customers in the future. We expect firms to make reasonable judgements based on the rules and the similarity of other incentives to those in the table.

ENBP - Equivalent New Business Price

If NB commission is reduced/given away this needs
to be considered when determining ENBP



Attestation

Attestation format and wording

We are introducing a new form, to be submitted via our RegData platform, for firms to make the attestation.

We expect the attestation wording is to be as follows:

- 1. Lattest that I am satisfied that the firm is, and has been, complying with the requirements in ICOBS 6B for the most recent reporting period, and
- 2. I am satisfied that the pricing of home insurance and motor insurance renewal business and related sales practices:
 - **a.** are consistent with the objectives of the rules as set out in ICOBS 6B.1.4G, and
 - b. do not discriminate against customers of longer tenure, as set out in ICOBS 6B.2.39R. ICOBS 6B.2.48R. or
- **3.** I cannot make the above attestation for the following (free text) reasons



Interesting...

- A firm must notify the FCA if it becomes aware that any other firm in the distribution chain is not or may not be complying with the rules in this chapter (ICOBS 6B2.45R)
- Existing renewal disclosures apply and a firm should not communicate with a customer of longer tenure in a manner which is objectively likely to discourage them from shopping around and records need to be kept to evidence this
- Fees for renewing customers cannot be higher



Premium Finance (retail)

- Cost of finance at renewal should be no higher than if at NB but cost can vary between customers due to credit risk
- Explain cost with/without PF and state PF cost
- Statement more expensive to use PF
- Duration of policy and PF if different
- Customer to make an active election
- PF you provide and the remuneration you receive must not conflict with the customer's best interests rule to act honestly, fairly and professionally
- · Regular review of arrangements



To consider

- Is the PF consistent with your obligations in the FCA Handbook and the customer's best interests rule?
- PRIN 1, 6 and 8 integrity, TCF and management of conflicts of interest
- This incls APR uplift, remuneration or inducements offered or accepted from providers (cash, commission, goods, hospitality or training)
- Broker fee waived if instalment plan is the insurer's own one? Discount therefore?



Issues

- You will need to compare the insurer's premium finance options (if any) with your own standalone provider and offer the cheapest or disclose the fact that you will only offer the most expensive
- If you up the APR or your margin then you need to tell the customer you are doing this
- If you only have one provider you should tell the customer that they could finance the premium cheaper elsewhere
- Is what you earn fair and why did you select that arrangement?

3. Auto renewals



Scope

- Retail + pure protection + additional products sold alongside (incl premium finance)
- Firms to provide a range of accessible and easy options to stop their policy from auto-renewing (to incl all methods available at NB stage)
- Private health/medical + pet exempt
- Clearly explain at POS whether policy is set up to auto-renew and what this means
- No imposition of unnecessary barriers on customers wanting to stop auto-renewal



4. Product Governance



Scope

- Retail + commercial GI + pure protection + additional products sold alongside (incl premium finance)
- Firms to consider the value that a product is likely to offer throughout the life of the product at inception, through the initial insured period and at subsequent anticipated renewals
- And if fair value cannot be demonstrated they need to stop marketing and distributing it
- To consider target market, testing and distribution channel and legacy products



Where?

- 1.4.7 R *PROD* 4 applies to a *firm* with respect to activities carried on from an establishment maintained by it, or its *appointed representative*₅:
 - (1) (for all insurance products and pathway investments) in the United Kingdom; and
 - (2) (in addition, for non-investment insurance products) overseas, in relation to an insurance product that is, or will be, marketed or distributed, or there are policies under the product that remain in force, in the United Kingdom.

[Note: in respect of (1), article 7(2) of the *IDD*]

contracts of large risks

(in ICOBS and PROD) contracts of insurance covering risks within the following categories, in accordance with the UK provisions which implemented article 13(27) of the Solvency II Directive:

(a) railway rolling stock, aircraft, ships (sea, lake, river and canal vessels), goods in transit, aircraft liability and liability of ships (sea, lake, river and canal vessels);

(b) *credit* and *suretyship*, where the policyholder is engaged professionally in an industrial or commercial activity or in one of the liberal professions, and the risks relate to such activity;

(c) land vehicles (other than railway rolling stock), fire and natural forces, other damage to property, motor vehicle liability, general liability, and miscellaneous financial loss, in so far as the policyholder exceeds the limits of at least two of the following three criteria:

(i) balance sheet total: €6.2 million;

(ii) net turnover: €12.8 million;

(iii) average number of employees during the financial year: 250.

[Note: article 13(27) of the Solvency II Directive and article 2(1)(16) of the IDD]

Enhancing value

- Value means the relationship between the total price to the end customer and the quality of the products and services
- A firm must not use a distribution channel unless it is able to demonstrate clearly that the channel results in fair value (PROD 4.2.32A R)
- Certain price optimisation practices may not offer fair value - auto-renewals, use of PF, vulnerability (to incl unlawful discrimination)
- Intermediaries to review distribution arrangements (to incl remuneration arrangements) at least every 12 months



- (1) the <u>nature of the product</u> including the benefits that will be provided, their quality, and any limitations
- (2) the type and quality of services provided to customers
- (3) the <u>expected total price</u> to be paid by the customer when buying or renewing the insurance product, and the elements that make up the total price. This will need to include consideration of at least the following:
 - (a) the pricing model used to calculate the risk premium:
 - (i) for the initial policy term; and
 - (ii) any future renewal
 - (b) the overall cost to the firm of the insurance product (including the underwriting and operating of the product) and, where relevant, any other components of a package
 - (c) the individual elements of the expected total price to be paid by the customer including, but not limited to the price paid for:
 - (i) the insurance product, including any additional features which are part of the same non-investment insurance contract
 - (ii) any additional products, including retail premium finance, offered alongside the insurance product
 - (iii) the distribution arrangements, including the remuneration of any relevant person in the distribution arrangements, and including where the final decision on setting the price is taken by another person)
- (4) how the <u>intended distribution arrangements</u> support, and will not adversely affect, the intended value of the product



Information to use?

- Customer research
- Claims information
- Public information
- Distribution arrangements remuneration and its impact and the levels or quality of service provided by any person within the chain



Further...

- Firms to review all products at least every 12 months (starting 1 October 2021 and more frequently if a product has a higher risk of generating harm)
- Value assessment to be undertaken to include distribution strategy and how this influences value (incl remuneration awareness for the chain where this has an impact) and distributors to have an involvement in this
- Amend distribution process if this results in harm
- Remind that assessment of D&N is continual



Senior Managers

- A firm's governing body has ultimate responsibility for product governance arrangements
- It must ensure that the firm complies
- FCA remind firms that they must have a Senior Manager responsible for compliance with the regulatory system to incl product governance and pricing
- It should be clear which SM has responsibility for these areas (check your SoR)



Fair value for non-investment insurance products: distribution arrangements

- 4.2.14N R A firm must, as far as reasonably possible, ensure the distribution arrangements for a non-investment insurance product avoid or minimise the risk of negatively impacting the fair value of the insurance product or package. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - (1) avoiding or reducing the risks arising from:
 - (a) any remuneration of a party, or parties, involved in the distribution arrangements increasing, directly or indirectly, the total price paid by the *customer* without adequate monitoring or oversight of the nature, level and fairness justification for their inclusion; or
 - (b) providing discretion to another person to set the final price, for example through a net pricing arrangement, without adequate monitoring or oversight of the final price paid by the *customer*;
 - (2) ensuring that appropriate arrangements will be in place to identify if the actions of another person involved in the distribution arrangements would adversely affect the value of the insurance product or package; and
 - (3) reducing the scope for the overall effect of any distribution arrangements to detrimentally affect the value of the products or package including where the cumulative effects of the remuneration of multiple parties unreasonably add to the overall price paid by the customer.

- 4.2.140 G

 Where the *firm* is considering the effects of the distribution arrangements on value it should consider whether the additional costs of any individual party in the arrangements that add to the total price paid by the *customer* deliver any, or a proportional, additional benefit. If not, *firms* should consider how they can be satisfied that the arrangements are consistent with their obligations to be able to clearly demonstrate fair value to the *customer*.
- 4.2.14P R A firm must obtain from any person in the distribution arrangements all necessary and relevant information to enable it to identify the remuneration

associated with the distribution arrangements to allow it to assess the ongoing value of the product, including at least:

- (1) the type and amount of remuneration of each person in the distribution arrangement where this is part of the premium or otherwise paid directly by the customer, including in relation to additional products (other than where this relates to another non-investment insurance product for which the firm is not a manufacturer);
- (2) an explanation of the services provided by each person in the distribution arrangements; and
- (3) confirmation from any *firm* in the distribution arrangements that any remuneration is consistent with their regulatory obligations including *SYSC* 19F.2 (IDD remuneration incentives).

ONEROUS Issues

- Does the existing distribution arrangement add any value and what does each party do to enhance value?
- Are such arrangements unnecessarily complex which might mean customers are at greater risk of not receiving fair value?
- Firms must not use a distribution channel unless it results in fair value and regular reviews now needed
- Commercial business is included so <u>this will</u> <u>include arrangements with property managing</u> agents and persons not regulated under FSMA



Little cracker here...

- 4.3.6D G The following evidential provision provides examples of arrangements the FCA considers will breach PROD 4.3.6AR.
- 4.3.6E E (1) A firm's distribution arrangements including any distribution strategy it sets up, should not result in:
 - (a) the *firm* receiving a level of remuneration which does not bear a reasonable relationship to the *firm*'s actual costs, or their contribution, level of involvement or the benefit added by them, to the arrangements for the distribution of the product, including where the *firm* provides little or no benefit beyond that which the *customer* would receive if they obtained the insurance product through another distribution channel;



One more...

- 4.3.10B R For the purposes of PROD 4.3.10UK, a distributor must provide on request to a manufacturer of a non-investment insurance product:
 - (1) <u>information on the distributor's remuneration in connection with the distribution of the insurance product;</u>
 - (2) information on any ancillary product or service that the distributor provides to the customer (including insurance add-ons, non-insurance additional products and retail premium finance), which may affect the manufacturer's intended value of the insurance product; and
 - (3) confirmation that the distribution arrangements are consistent with the obligations of the *firm* under the *FCA Handbook* including in particular in *SYSC* 10 (Conflicts of interest) and *SYSC* 19F.2 (IDD remuneration incentives).



What we're providing

As required under the incoming PROD requirements, the information we're sharing enables you to:

- Understand the intended value of our insurance products;
- Identify any effect you, as the distributor, may have on the intended value to the end customer; and
- Understand any type of customer for whom the insurance product is unlikely to provide fair value.

These Target Market and Product Fair Value Statements should be read in conjunction with the existing policy wording and other product literature and can be downloaded from our website.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

In a nutshell

- Generally the insurer will lead this with your help
- Agree what role you have in the manufacturing and/or distribution process
- Understand if what you do adds or detracts from the value of the product
- Is there anyone else in the chain and if so, what do they do, how much do they get paid for it, is this fair and how does any of this add value to the end customer
- · All products, all insurers and incl add ons.
- More concerns if net rated or charges imposed

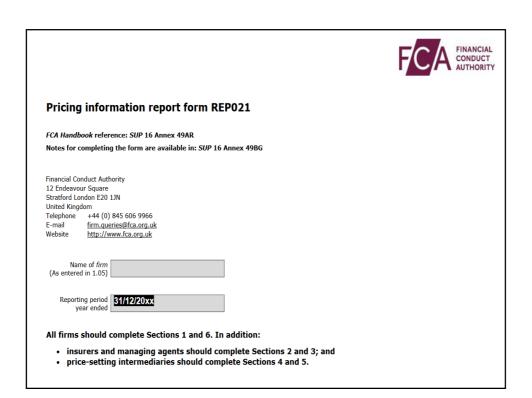


5. Reporting



- Pricing Information Report for each home and motor (only) product split by:-
 - Sales channel
 - How long policy held (NB, 1-10 years and greater)
 - Large books (100,000+)
 - Closed books (not by sales channel)
 - To incl net rated, gross rated, averages, policy count, claims ratios, expected claims ratios, reserves, etc
- Price setting intermediaries not required to report on large and closed books of business but will be required to report on total charged for PF, numbers on PF, APRs, fees, add-ons, etc
- Reporting from 31 March 2022 via RegData





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So what will they use it for?

- Proportion of customers with average expected claims 10% to 30% below average when compared (typically home and motor are 50% or more)
- If more spent on claims could indicate better product value
- · Analysis of reserving
- All sales channels direct, intermediated, affinity
 + partnerships, price comparison sites



And for intermediaries?

- Deep analysis of PF arrangements to incl
 - APRs to help FCA analyse costs of policies paid for using PF arrangements
- Add-on product sales
- Where >25% of sales incl commission rebate
- Fees and charges
 - what are these for?
 - and are they fair?
 - benchmark analysis



s not			mediaries the bus	ines	s wh	iere t	hev s	et th	e prie	e an	d wh	ere ti	ne pri	ice
h		an insurer or an intermediary	the business must											
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6.02	Total ch	narged (£) for retail premium finance in	the reporting period											+
6.03		r of core motor and home and any add-												
	with ret	ail premium finance in the reporting per	iod											
6.04	Number of policies incepted/or renewed in the reporting period with													
	an APR:	:												
	Of 0%					-	_					_		
	Between 0.1% to 9.9%					_	-	_				_		-
	Between 10% to 19.9% Between 20% to 29.9%				_	-	-	-			-	-		-
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Add-		more												
6.05		oss written premiums (£) for add-ons in	cepted or renewed in											
		orting period												
6.06		r of add-ons incepted or renewed in the	reporting period											
		es in addition to the premium												
6.07	Total pr	re-contractual fees/charges (£) charged ag period	to customers in the											
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0.08		a fee in the reporting period	istomer who was											
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		g period												
6.10		post-contractual fees/charges (£) per	customer who was											
	charged	a fee in the reporting period												

What should you be doing?

- Understand what parts of your business will be affected (so home/motor/commercial)
- Are you a price-setting intermediary?
- Are you a manufacturer/co-manufacturer?
- By 30 September you need to focus on:-
 - Product Governance
- By 31 December you then need to focus on:-
 - Pricing
 - Premium Finance
 - Auto-renewals
 - Reporting



Learning outcomes...

By the end of this event you will have gained an insight into:

- The new rules to end price-walking
- Changes to internal policies that have to be made
- What product governance arrangements will be including existing distribution arrangements
- An understanding of "value" when it comes to all forms of general insurance



Thank you for listening

Questions and debate please

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