



Treasury Committee

House of Commons, Committee Office, London SW1A 0AA

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Chris Woolard
Interim Chief Executive
Financial Conduct Authority
Via email

22 September 2020

Dear Chris,

The recent release of the FinCen papers to the media has once again placed a spotlight on the UK's approach to combatting economic crime. This was the focus of a previous Treasury Committee inquiry, which led to the publication of a Report entitled *Economic Crime - Anti-money laundering supervision and sanctions implementation* in March 2019.

The FCA has a core role in combatting financial crime, both as the conduct regulator, but also as the home to the Office for Professional Body Anti-Money Laundering Supervision (OPBAS). That role was acknowledged in the previous Committee's Report.

Following the release of the so-called FinCen files, I would welcome your answers to the following questions:

- What action is the FCA taking in the face of the information in the FinCen files, including potential enforcement action?
- What needs to be done to further secure the financial system from Economic Crime, given the information in the FinCen files?
- It is reported that a leaked US Treasury paper argued the UK was a "higher-risk" jurisdiction. Have you had similar comments from US authorities, and would such an identification concern you?
- Whether OPBAS is confident that the Professional Body Anti-Money Laundering supervisors are now an effective deterrent to economic crime in their respective areas?

Finally, I would welcome your thoughts on whether the release of this information may have an impact on any ongoing investigations or work, or may impede the future operation of the SARs system (regulatory requirements aside)?

Given their respective roles in combatting economic crime, I will also be writing to HMRC, the Minister for Security and the Minister for Climate Change and Corporate Responsibility.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mel Stride".

Rt Hon. Mel Stride MP
Chair of the Treasury Committee