



THE DFSA IS THE INDEPENDENT REGULATOR OF FINANCIAL SERVICES CONDUCTED IN OR FROM THE DIFC, A PURPOSE-BUILT FINANCIAL FREE ZONE IN DUBAI, UAE.

The DFSA's regulatory mandate includes asset management, banking and credit services, securities dealing, investment advice, collective investment funds, custody and trust services, commodities futures trading, FinTech services, Islamic finance, insurance, an international equities exchange and an international commodities derivatives exchange.

In addition to regulating financial and ancillary services, the DFSA is responsible for supervising and enforcing Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter-Terrorist Financing (CTF) requirements applicable in the DIFC.

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

- Via telephone +971 4 3621 500
- Via fax: +971 4 362 0801

Visit the DFSA website at
www.dfsa.ae for:

- Full text of Laws, Regulations and Rules
- More news about the DFSA
- Copies of DFSA publications

THE DFSA

INTEGRITY, TRANSPARENCY, EFFICIENCY



WHAT WE DO

STRATEGY, POLICY AND RISK DIVISION

The Strategy, Policy and Risk (SPR) Division oversees the DFSA's approach to strategic planning, including its annual business planning cycle and its input to the strategic planning of the DIFC and Dubai as a whole. As part of this work, the Division produces economic and other environmental analysis for internal use and, where appropriate, external publication, together with analysis of developments in the regulatory community at global and regional levels.

SPR is responsible for the DFSA's policy framework, including its maintenance and development, as well as providing advice on the intent of the DFSA's policy framework to other Divisions within the DFSA. Lastly, the Division takes the lead in the DFSA's approach to risk management, including the development of the DFSA's risk culture, setting a Risk Tolerance for the organisation, reviewing the mitigation of non-firm specific risks across the DFSA, and working on tools and processes to deliver our risk-based approach to regulation and supervision.

LEGAL DIVISION – GENERAL COUNSEL/ BOARD SECRETARIAT

The Legal Division provides legal advice on a broad range of issues affecting the DFSA; including advising on Laws and Rules administered by the DFSA as well as other legislation that applies in the DIFC. The Division is responsible for drafting and maintaining the DIFC Laws and Rules administered by the DFSA and for liaising with the Dubai Government and the DIFC Authority on other DIFC, Dubai and Federal legislation. The Division advises on contractual issues and provides litigation management and advice to the DFSA on matters before the DIFC Courts or the Financial Markets Tribunal. The Division also provides administrative and legal support to the Decision Making Committee and chairs and provides legal and administrative support to the Rules and Waivers Committee.

The General Counsel manages and supervises the Legal Division and is responsible for advising the DFSA Board of Directors and

its committees on legal and governance issues and carries out the Board Secretariat role: managing and coordinating all corporate secretarial functions for the Board and each of its committees. The General Counsel also oversees the DFSA's ethics and Tomorrow's Regulatory Leaders (TRL) Programme.

SUPERVISION DIVISION

The Supervision Division assesses new applicants that wish to carry out financial services activities in or from the DIFC to ensure that proper systems and controls are in place for the entity's operations, and that the applicant has appropriate governance arrangements, including fit and proper management teams. Following the authorisation process, the Division is then responsible for assessing, monitoring and mitigating risk across the full range of Authorised Firms operating in or from the DIFC. The Division also monitors the work of Registered Auditors and Credit Rating Agencies. In the DFSA's broader role of combating financial crime across the entire DIFC, the Division registers and monitors, the activity of many other types of entities such as law and accounting firms, single family offices, high value goods dealers, and real estate agents for anti-money laundering purposes. These entities are captured under the regulatory regime for Designated Non-Financial Businesses or Professions.

MARKETS DIVISION

The Markets Division is responsible for the licensing and ongoing supervision of the two Authorised Market Institutions in the DIFC, the Dubai Mercantile Exchange and Nasdaq Dubai. The Division is also responsible for the recognition of remote participants, market operators and clearing houses located outside the DIFC. The Division operates the Listing Authority for companies proposing to offer and list securities in the DIFC. The Listing Authority is responsible for admitting companies to the DFSA's Official List and sets the minimum standards for offerings and listings, takeovers and mergers, in line with international market developments. In addition, the Division approves corporate actions such as share buybacks and is responsible for monitoring possible market abuse, as well as the ongoing and periodic disclosure obligations of listed companies.

ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

The Enforcement Division investigates breaches of DIFC Laws and Rules administered by the DFSA. The Division takes action in circumstances where suspected misconduct may cause damage to the financial services industry in the DIFC. Its overarching objective is to prevent, detect and restrain conduct that causes (or may cause) damage to the reputation of the DIFC.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DIVISION

The International Relations Division leads and coordinates the DFSA's role in all international matters and cooperative bilateral and multilateral efforts with regional and international counterparts, and its engagement with global financial standard-setters.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION

The Human Resources Division includes the functions of talent acquisition, development and reward management, as well as all aspects of employee resources at the DFSA, particularly in relation to ongoing performance, skills development of employees and their retention. A principal developmental activity is the recruitment and training of UAE Nationals for regulatory careers through the TRL Programme.

OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Operations Division comprises the Finance, Information Technology, Administration, Corporate Affairs, Projects and Planning and Strategic Operations, as well as the Business Excellence and Stakeholder Management departments. The Division provides the operational and technological backbone and infrastructure for the smooth running of the DFSA, and applies principles of excellence, digital transformation and knowledge management to position the DFSA as a world-class and innovative regulator contributing to the local economy and facilitating international partnerships.