



By Email

15 March 2022

To: Money Laundering Reporting Officers (MLRO) of Relevant Persons

Re: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Decision in relation to the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Dear MLRO,

On Friday 4 March 2022, the FATF updated its statements for countries under review which resulted in placing the UAE under increased monitoring (FATF: [Link](#)). Following the FATF announcement, the UAE issued a press release in which it confirmed its strong commitment to working closely with FATF to address remaining areas of improvement through the implementation of an action plan (WAM: [Link](#)).

Dubai International Financial Centre Commitment

The Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA) reiterates and fully supports the UAE's commitment to this key regulatory priority and is resolute in having zero tolerance for money laundering, terrorism financing and proliferation financing activities, nor for deliberate breaches of United Nations and UAE sanctions. We will continue to work closely with the Dubai International Financial Centre Authority (DIFCA) and alongside our fellow regulators and relevant government authorities to secure the stability and integrity of the UAE's financial system.

DFSA Financial Crime

Financial crime risks remain a key regulatory priority for the DFSA. During 2022, the DFSA will continue to exercise substantive supervisory oversight and measures as part of the DFSA's Financial Crime Prevention program. Such measures will include scheduled, specific financial crime risk assessments (inspections) of financial institutions and DNFBPs. The DFSA will continue to review and analyse data and trends from annual AML Returns and annual Information Returns for DNFBPs; monitor Targeted Financial Sanctions compliance and Suspicious Activity reporting; and continue to take action on unlicensed activities to maintain compliance with federal AML/CFT and CPF legislation and our AML Module and, importantly, to reduce and mitigate the risks of financial crime.

We would also like to draw your attention to the DFSA's recent publication, [Financial Crime Prevention Programme \(FCPP\) Report for 2019-2021](#), prepared and published in collaboration with the DIFC Authority. The FCPP Report provides an insight into the DFSA's supervisory and enforcement efforts on financial crime within the DIFC and is an informative tool for the regulated community, as well as to other stakeholders involved in tackling financial crime. The FCPP Report outlines the additional steps taken to align DIFC regulatory, supervisory and enforcement frameworks further with the FATF Recommendations by conducting monitoring programmes, thematic reviews, compliance assessments and notifications, which underpin an intensive and sustained cycle of supervision to reduce and mitigate the risks of financial crime.



We look forward to your continuing engagement and cooperation. Relevant Persons are reminded that general communications with the DFSA should be made via the Supervised Firm Contact Form available on the [DFSA e-Portal](#). This includes any questions regarding this email.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'F. Christopher Calabia'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

F. Christopher Calabia
Chief Executive, DFSA

CC: Senior Executive Officers of DFSA Regulated Entities
Principal Representatives of Representative Offices
Senior Executive Officers of Authorised Market Institutions
Audit Principals of Registered Auditors
Compliance Officers of Authorised Firms and other Regulated Entities