

Open Banking Implementation Entity

From: Daniel Gordon
Senior Director, Markets

Sent by email

15 November 2021

Dear Charlotte

Approval of timescale for VRP standard for sweeping

Thank you for your letter of 8 November in which you set out your recommendation regarding a revised implementation timescale for Variable Recurring Payments (VRPs) for sweeping services.

Delivery of the VRP standard for sweeping is a key outstanding item in the [final approved Roadmap](#) which the CMA considers to be a critical part of the future development of the open banking ecosystem. As you know, sweeping services were identified in the Final Report of the Retail Banking Market Investigation as one of the use cases for open banking. Implementation of this standard will therefore mark a significant milestone for open banking and the Roadmap, as we near completion of the implementation phase next year.

As set out in your letter, however, most if not all the CMA9 do not have a realistic prospect of meeting the target of implementing VRPs for sweeping by 31 January 2022. Consequently, you have reassessed the timetables and feasibility of the deadline, and, in summary, your recommendation is to require CMA9 firms to:

- Share a detailed delivery plan for full capability with you by January 2022.
- Be ready to start TPP testing and Validation in Q1 2022.
- Have successfully completed testing of the VRP standard in a live, controlled environment by TPPs by July 2022 so the firms are ready to progress general availability of the standard.

The CMA has considered the recommendation and agrees that, under the circumstances, revising the implementation timetable for the VRP standard for sweeping services in the way you recommend is the most appropriate way to proceed. In particular, we agree that in order for the standard to be considered implemented, it needs to be available for general use by TPPs.

While it is clearly disappointing that the January 2022 timeframe will not be met, it remains vitally important to ensure that work to progress the standard's implementation continues as a priority, and at pace, across the CMA9.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Gordon

Senior Director, Markets