



HM Treasury

Notice of designation under section 131R(1) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000

1. Under section 131R(1) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA), the Treasury may designate a person for the purposes of Part 8B of FSMA (cash access services) if the person is an operator of cash access coordination arrangements, and at least one of the participants in the arrangements is a relevant current account provider also designated under section 131R(1). A person who is designated must comply with rules made by the FCA under section 131V of FSMA and comply with directions given by the FCA to the designated person under section 131W.
2. “Cash access coordination arrangements” are arrangements which are designed to coordinate the provision of cash access services by two or more providers of such services, but which do not directly provide cash access services to any person (see section 131N(5)). A reference to the “operator” of such arrangements is to any person with responsibility under the arrangements for managing or operating them and a reference to the operation of such arrangements includes their management (see section 131N(6)).
3. Pursuant to Section 131S the Treasury may designate a person only if it is satisfied that doing so is likely to further the purpose of seeking to ensure reasonable provision of cash access services in the United Kingdom or a part of the United Kingdom.
4. Section 131R(5) provides that before giving a designation notice to a person, the Treasury must consult the FCA, notify the person and consider any representations made.
5. Accordingly, the Treasury have consulted with the FCA, and by its letter of 19 January 2024 notified Link Scheme Holdings of its potential designation. Any representations made have been duly considered.
6. The Treasury have determined that Link Scheme Holdings is an operator of cash access coordination arrangements. Furthermore, at least one of the participants in the arrangement is a relevant current account provider and has been designated under section 131R(1). The Treasury is satisfied that designating Link Scheme Holdings is likely to further the purpose of seeking to ensure reasonable provision of cash access services in the United Kingdom or a part of the United Kingdom.
7. Therefore, the Treasury designates Link Scheme Holdings in relation to the United Kingdom for the purposes of Part 8B of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.
8. The designation specified in this notice comes into force on 24 May 2024.

Specification of the arrangements constituting LINK

9. Section 131R(4) provides that designation notice given to the operator of cash access coordination arrangements must specify the arrangements in as much detail as is reasonably practicable.
10. The cash access coordination arrangements that are the subject of this notice are operated collectively by Link Scheme Limited and Link Scheme Holdings. Such arrangements comprise the arrangements under the relevant agreements, rules or policies, as amended from time to time, of the LINK Scheme that are designed to coordinate the provision of cash access services by two or more participating members of the arrangements. These arrangements include –

- a. activities in relation to the assessment of cash access provision in communities or geographical areas of the UK to identify, on the basis of applicable criteria, (i) whether there is adequate access to cash provision in those communities or geographical areas, and (ii) what measures may be required to be implemented or operated, or may no longer required to be implemented or operated, in order to address any access to cash needs identified as part of that assessment;
- b. the identification, review or approval (as the case may be) of any relevant criteria used in such assessments; and
- c. the publication of information in relation to (i) the procedures or outcomes of such assessments, and (ii) the provision of cash access services in the UK or a part of the UK.

Signed: *Amanda Solloway*

Signed: *Joy Morrissey*

Date: 24/05/2024