

Simplifying Access to Markets

Working Group Chair(s):

Forum update as at 17/02/2016

Marion King

Last Report

Amber

This Report

Amber

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Simplifying Access to Markets (SAM) WG met for a second time on the 13th January 2016. This was hosted by Marion King (RBS) at Metro Bank. Following this meeting, a further two sessions have been held which has allowed the working group to progress as the group has built momentum. These have included:

- One-day 'hot-house' workshop held on 28 January with invited experts from the schemes, banks, FinTech organisations and regulator. The detriments were analysed and debated to allow for the solution stage to start.
- PwC facilitated a solutions refinement & prioritisation session, which identified seven solutions, which could address the detriments allocated to SAM WG. A separate document has been completed to document the Triage and Prioritisation Analysis leading to our prioritised solution concepts, with full details on the discussion that led to the outcomes shared.

• Next Steps/Actions

Key next steps / actions between point of submitting this report and the next Forum meeting (14 April)

- Carry out Stage 2: Detailed Analysis for the seven prioritised solution concepts for Simplifying Access to Markets, as defined in the Forum's Working Group Briefing document, December 2015. This will include:
 - articulating clearly the problem that each solution is seeking to solve;
 - setting out the merits and reasons for collaboration, and assessing the six key impacts identified;
 - and, critically, assessing whether the solution will deliver net benefits.
- Form an initial view of the potential delivery approaches for these proposed solutions
- Engage with relevant stakeholder groups across the payments industry and community to develop understanding and support for the potential solutions

Key Deliverables/Milestones (taken from agreed high level programme of work)

- **COMPLETE:** Agree Terms of Reference and work-plan: **15/12/2015**
- **COMPLETE:** Define / refine / group detriments; prioritise; identify solutions: **25/02/2016**
- Define solutions; gather evidence: **14/04/2016**
- Define / finalise / evaluate solutions; gather evidence; produce implementation plans (supported by independent consultants): **30/06/2016**
- Produce relevant section of the DRAFT strategy (supported by independent consultants): **30/06/2016**
- Produce relevant section of the FINAL strategy (supported by independent consultants): **21/09/2016**

Key Risks & Issues

- The timescale for this work remains challenging. Simplifying access issues impact multiple different types of entity, both suppliers and users, which adds complexity. Solution assessment will also take into account developments underway. Recommendations from the Working Group will reflect both of these elements.
- Access to resources presents an on-going challenge; we have had very good engagement with Working Group members to date, but recognise they are engaging over and above their day-to-day responsibilities. Engaging consultancy support is being pursued, while seeking to ensure the costs are contained.
- Differing views on how the working group should approach PSO governance

Forum Actions / Decisions Required

- Agreement to transfer one detriment to the Horizons Scanning WG. *Original Detriment 22: Banks not good at innovating – external market should innovate*
- Agreement for the potential solutions identified through the Triage and Prioritisation process and the proposed prioritisation of seven solution concepts for details analysis in the next phase of work.