



# Banking Regulatory Update

**Regulators' response to the COVID-19 crisis**

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April 2020



# Risks and market influences

The **COVID-19 pandemic** is impacting all areas of financial services. There are significant challenges – in some cases severe – to the financial and operational resilience of firms and market infrastructure, market volatility, asset de-valuations, liquidity concerns, disruptions to distribution and client on-boarding, increased communications with clients, staffing issues and remote working risks. These are in addition to broader economic impacts.







# Regulatory challenges

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in order to ease the impacts previously mentioned, regulators are providing concessions to existing requirements (such as capital, reporting and the ability to hold virtual meetings) and are delaying the implementation of new measures. However, they are also reminding firms of their obligations to customers and are expecting them to offer specific assistance to consumers (such as *moratoria* on debt repayments). Meanwhile, the regulators continue to focus on a number of themes:



# Actions taken by regulators

Summary as of 22 April 2020		Hong Kong SAR	Australia	Japan	Singapore	Europe	United Kingdom	United States	Global Bodies
<b>Delayed Activity</b> 	Implementation of Basel 3 final package	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
	Initial margin final phases				✓			✓	✓
	Supervisor-driven stress tests	✓				✓	✓		
	Other planned policy and supervision initiatives	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Financial Stimulus*</b> 	Monetary easing		✓	✓				✓	
	Reduction in capital or regulatory reserve requirements	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Loan guarantee schemes	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
	Temporary liquidity/funding facilities for banks	✓	✓		✓			✓	
	Direction to release liquidity buffers / easing of liquidity requirements	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Grace periods for insurance policies			✓	✓				
	Government investments in securitisations by lenders		✓						
	Loan principal payment holiday schemes and other relief measures			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Forbearance</b> 	Waivers of licensing fees	✓							
	Suitability, selling process and best execution requirements	✓					✓	✓	
	Requirements for listed companies	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
	Deferral of reporting requirements for financial institutions		✓		✓	✓		✓	
	Relief measures for real estate investment funds				✓				
<b>Guidance</b> 	Relaxation of lending requirements		✓			✓		✓	
	Remote working arrangements	✓					✓	✓	
	Suitability requirements for investment products given market volatility	✓							
	Risk management given economic conditions and market volatility	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
	Anti-money laundering	✓				✓			
	IFRS 9 / CECL		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
	Lending and consumer protection				✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Dividend distribution, share buybacks and variable remuneration					✓	✓		
LIBOR transition						✓			

\* Indirect stimulus delivered through banks (including by relaxation of capital and/or liquidity requirements) and does not include direct stimulus such as payroll relief or access to pension fund savings

# Hong Kong SAR

Action type	Category	Regulator	Details	Date	Link
Financial Stimulus	Loan guarantee schemes	HKMA	In view of the spread of the novel coronavirus, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) convened a special teleconference of the Banking Sector SME Lending Coordination Mechanism on 11 February 2020 to discuss ways for the industry to extend greater support to their SME customers in light of the latest developments.	13-Feb	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Suitability, selling process and best execution requirements	Hong Kong Insurance Authority	Insurance Authority announced a relaxation to allow non-face-to-face distribution of certain insurance products to minimise the risk of infection during the sales process of insurance policies whilst according protection to customers.	21-Feb	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Reduction in capital or regulatory reserve requirements	HKMA	HKMA announces reduction of Applicable Jurisdictional Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB) Ratio for Hong Kong. The HKMA is also considering the implications of Covid-19 for the Als' application of expected credit loss provisioning. The HKMA has been in discussion with the relevant bodies and will provide its expectation on this matter shortly.	16-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	Risk management given economic conditions and market volatility	SFC	In a circular to managers, trustees and custodians of SFC-authorized funds, the SFC reiterated their obligations to properly manage the liquidity of funds and ensure fair treatment of investors in light of the current market situation. The SFC has stepped up its monitoring of SFC-authorized funds and should be given early warning of any material issues affecting them, the circular emphasised.	27-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	Suitability requirements for investment products given market volatility	SFC	A circular reminded intermediaries of their obligation to ensure suitability when they make a solicitation or recommendation. This includes performing due diligence having regard to an investment product's liquidity and credit quality as well as taking the client's current circumstances into account. Intermediaries were also reminded to disseminate notices and other communications about investment products in a timely manner where they hold them directly or indirectly on behalf of their clients.	27-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Implementation of Basel 3 final package	HKMA	In line with the revised timeline announced by the Basel Committee, the HKMA will defer the implementation of the Basel 3 final package accordingly.	30-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Waivers of licensing fees	SFC	The SFC has waived annual licensing fees for the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. The SFC will not issue the usual demands for payment for annual licensing fees which would ordinarily become payable during the waiver period. Payments of all other fees, including for licence applications and transfers, will not be affected.	30-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Other planned policy and supervision initiatives	SFC	This circular informs the industry that the SFC has decided to extend the deadlines of three regulatory expectations that are due for implementation in 2020 by six months in light of the pandemic and the disruptions it is causing. It also reminds intermediaries of the alternative order recording options under the existing regulatory framework that may be adopted during the pandemic.	31-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	Remote working arrangements	SFC	In light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, intermediaries' staff may not work from their usual place of business. The SFC understands that many intermediaries have provided their staff with remote access to order management systems, which are capable of centralised order recording for orders placed from a remote location. The SFC wishes to remind intermediaries that alternative order receiving and recording options are available to comply with the regulatory requirements, which can be adopted by intermediaries as appropriate to meet the needs of their current circumstances:	31-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	Remote working arrangements	SFC	The SFC is aware that intermediaries or licensing applicants faced with restrictions on travel, public gatherings and lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic locally and overseas may encounter difficulties in fulfilling their obligations in licensing matters. The SFC would continue ongoing dialogue with the industry and provide regulatory flexibility to help intermediaries cope with the COVID-19 pandemic while ensuring that market integrity and investor protection principles are maintained.	31-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Requirements for listed companies	SFC	The SFC and the Hong Kong Exchange have clarified application of requirements for General Meetings for Hong Kong listed companies in light of the Hong Kong government's prohibition of group gatherings. The SFC and the Exchange have issued guidelines on adjournment or delay, management of physical meetings and shareholders communications.	01-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>

# Hong Kong SAR

Action type	Category	Regulator	Details	Date	Link
Financial Stimulus	Direction to release liquidity buffers / easing of liquidity requirements	HKMA	To ensure the continued smooth operation of the interbank market and the banking system, the HKMA has taken or plans to take the measures to assist the industry in managing liquidity. These measures encompass three aspects, namely the HKMA's Liquidity Facilities Framework, the Federal Reserve's Temporary FIMA Repo Facility, and supervisory expectation on the use of liquidity buffers under the liquidity coverage ratio ("LCR") and liquidity maintenance ratio ("LMR") regimes.	03-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Loan guarantee schemes	HKMA	The HKMA has confirmed its policy intent on the relevant regulatory treatments in respect of a loan granted by any participating authorized institution ("AI") to an eligible SME borrower under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme administered by the HKMC Insurance Limited ("HKMCI"), in which 100% loan guarantee will be provided by the Government for a total loan guarantee commitment of HK\$20 billion ("100% Scheme"). The circular confirms that such loans may be deducted from the AI's exposures to the HKMCI for the purpose of calculating exposures under the Banking Exposure Limits Rules. It also confirmed the capital and risk management treatment of such loans.	06-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	Anti-money Laundering	HKMA	The circular sets out the type of support, guidance and assistance in relation to money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF) risk management that the HKMA is providing to support swift and effective implementation of measures in response to COVID-19. The HKMA encourages use of the flexibility built into the FATF's risk-based approach and the fullest use of reliable digital customer on-boarding; emphasises the role of the FATF Standards in giving confidence in financial transactions; and draws attention to COVID-19 related financial crime risks.	07-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Reduction in capital or regulatory reserve requirements	HKMA	With HKFRS 9 having been implemented for more than two years, the HKMA observes that locally incorporated AIs have made good progress in enhancing their expected loss provisioning models, systems and controls. Specifically, locally incorporated AIs in general reported notable increases in their accounting provisions for the second half of 2019 given the deterioration in the economic environment. This indicates that the "expected loss" provisioning requirement under HKFRS 9 is robust and responsive to changes in external conditions. Accordingly, the need for locally incorporated AIs to maintain an RR on top of accounting provisions has diminished. In view of this development and to provide AIs with a greater lending headroom to support customers to cope with the COVID-19 outbreak, the HKMA has decided to lower the RR requirement on AIs by 50% with immediate effect.	08-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Loan guarantee schemes	HKMA	HKMC Insurance Limited (HKMCI), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited, announces that, the Special 100% Loan Guarantee under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme (SFGS) will start receiving applications from 20 April 2020. The Special 100% Loan Guarantee is applicable to all sectors. The loans will be fully guaranteed by the Government. Eligible enterprises should have been operating for at least three months as at end-December 2019, and have suffered at least a 30% decline in sales turnover in any month since February 2020 compared with the monthly average of any quarter in 2019. An interest rate of the Prime Rate minus 2.5% per annum (i.e. current interest rate at 2.75%) will be charged. All guarantee fee will be waived. The maximum amount of the loan per enterprise is the total amount of employee wages and rents for six months, or HK\$2 million, whichever is lower.	16-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	Risk management given economic conditions and market volatility	SFC	SFC notes that recently, the sole market maker of an ETF temporarily suspended its market making functions for such ETF because some of its traders were under mandatory quarantine due to the COVID-19 outbreak. This has raised concerns as to whether the management company and market maker(s) of an ETF are sufficiently prepared to manage this risk. The management companies of ETFs are reminded to take appropriate steps to ensure the trading of SFC-authorized ETFs is conducted in a fair and orderly manner and comply with existing regulatory requirements.	17-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Loan guarantee schemes	HKMA	The HKMA together with the Banking Sector SME Lending Coordination Mechanism announced today the launch of a Pre-approved Principal Payment Holiday Scheme for eligible corporate customers. All corporate customers that have an annual sales turnover of HK\$800 million or less—estimated to cover more than 80% of all corporate borrowers in Hong Kong—and that have no outstanding loan payments overdue for more than 30 days are eligible for the Scheme. All loan principal payments of eligible customers falling due within a 6-month period between 1 May 2020 and 31 October 2020 will be pre-approved for deferment. Principal payments of loans (including revolving facilities) will generally be deferred by 6 months, whereas trade facilities, given their short-term nature, will be deferred by 3 months.	17-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Loan guarantee schemes	HKMA	HKMC Insurance Limited (HKMCI), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited, announced that, with the approval of financial commitment by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, the total guarantee commitment of the Special 100% Loan Guarantee under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme (SFGS) is increased to HK\$50 billion. The maximum loan amount per enterprise is increased to HK\$4 million and the principal moratorium arrangement is extended to the first 12 months. The Special 100% Loan Guarantee will start receiving applications from next Monday (20 April), and the application period is extended to 1 year.	18-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>

# Hong Kong SAR

Action type	Category	Regulator	Details	Date	Link
Guidance	Risk management given economic conditions and market volatility	SFC	In view of the recent volatility in local and international markets caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, issuers of SFC authorized paper gold schemes (PGS) are reminded to exercise due skill, care and diligence in the operations of the PGS and closely monitor the dealings by investors under the PGS. Where any decisions are made to suspend dealings of the PGS, PGS Issuers are reminded that such decisions should be made in the best interests of investors in accordance with the constitutive and offering documents of the PGS and applicable laws and regulations. The SFC needs to be informed immediately.	20-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Supervisor-driven stress tests	HKMA	HKMA has announced they will delay the 2020 supervisor-driven stress tests by one year to 2021	22-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Temporary liquidity/funding facilities for banks	HKMA	The HKMA announced the introduction of a temporary US Dollar Liquidity Facility (the Facility) to make available US dollar liquidity assistance for licensed banks. Amid considerable volatilities and uncertainties in the global financial markets brought about by the spread of the coronavirus infections, the HKMA uses the funds obtained through the Federal Reserves' FIMA Repo Facility to introduce the Facility to help alleviate tightness in the global US dollar interbank money markets. A total of US\$10 billion is currently available under the Facility. US dollar liquidity will be provided to licensed banks through competitive tenders in the form of repurchase transactions for a term of 7 days, settled on the day following the tender	22-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>

# Australia

Action type	Category	Regulator	Details	Date	Link
Financial Stimulus	Monetary easing	RBA	At its regular Tuesday monthly meeting RBA reduced the target cash rate to 0.50%	04-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Monetary easing	RBA	The Reserve Bank stands ready to purchase Australian Government bonds and semi-government securities in the secondary market to support its smooth functioning. The government bond market is a key market for the Australian financial system, because government bonds provide the pricing benchmark for many financial assets. The Bank is working in close cooperation with the AOFM.	16-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Monetary easing	RBA	The Reserve Bank has been injecting substantial extra liquidity into the financial system through its daily market operations. As part of this, the Bank is conducting one-month and three-month repurchase (repo) operations each day. The Bank is also conducting repo operations of six-month maturity or longer at least weekly, as long as market conditions warrant.	16-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Reduction in capital or regulatory reserve requirements	APRA	In 2017, APRA set benchmark capital targets for banks to enable them to be regarded internationally as unquestionably strong. For the four major banks, for example, this benchmark equated to having a CET1 ratio of at least 10.5 per cent of risk-weighted assets. A lower benchmark applies for smaller banks. APRA would not be concerned if banks were not meeting the additional benchmarks announced in 2017 during the period of disruption caused by COVID-19.	19-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Temporary liquidity/funding facilities for banks	RBA	The objectives of the term funding facility (TFF) are to lower funding costs for the entire banking system so that the cost of credit to households and businesses is low, and to provide an incentive for lenders to support credit to businesses, especially small and medium-sized businesses. Under the TFF, authorised deposit-taking institutions (ADIs) in total will have access to at least \$90 billion in funding from the Reserve Bank. The funding will be for three years at a fixed interest rate of 0.25 per cent, which is substantially below ADI's current funding costs. For every extra dollar of loans by ADIs to small and medium-sized businesses (those with turnover below \$50 million), ADIs will have access to an additional five dollars of funding from the Reserve Bank. For every extra dollar lent to large businesses, ADIs will have access to an additional dollar of funding.	19-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Government investments in securitisations by lenders	RBA / AOFM	The Australian Government has developed a complementary program of support for the non-bank financial sector, small lenders and the securitisation market, which will be implemented by the Australian Office of Financial Management (AOFM).	19-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Monetary easing	RBA	Over recent decades, the Reserve Bank has targeted the overnight cash rate. The Bank has extended this by also targeting a risk-free interest rate further out along the yield curve. The Board announced a target for the yield on 3-year Australian Government bonds of around 0.25 per cent, to help lower funding costs across the economy.	19-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Monetary easing	RBA	In a special announcement, the RBA reduced the target cash rate further to 0.25%	20-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Temporary liquidity/funding facilities for banks	RBA	The Reserve Bank and the US Federal Reserve have established a temporary swap line for the provision of US dollar liquidity. The swap line allows the Reserve Bank to access up to US\$60 billion in exchange for Australian dollars. The US dollars are made available to financial institutions operating in Australia via repos with the Reserve Bank	20-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Requirements for listed companies	ASIC	Coronavirus (COVID-19) may temporarily impact on companies' ability to hold an annual general meeting (AGM). For these entities, ASIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirms it will take no action if the AGMs are postponed for two months; that is, until the end of July</li> <li>• Supports the holding of AGMs using appropriate technology.</li> </ul> ASIC is closely monitoring developments that may affect financial reporting, talking to market participants and auditors, and considering possible impacts and responses.	20-Mar	
Forbearance	Relaxation of lending requirements	Aus Gov Treasury	The Government is temporarily increasing the threshold at which creditors can issue a statutory demand on a company and the time companies have to respond to statutory demands they receive. The package also includes temporary relief for directors from any personal liability for trading while insolvent, and providing temporary flexibility in the Corporations Act 2001 to provide temporary and targeted relief from provisions of the Act to deal with unforeseen events that arise as a result of the Coronavirus health crisis.	22-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Relaxation of lending requirements	Aus Gov Treasury	The Government is increasing the instant asset write-off threshold from \$30,000 to \$150,000 and expanding access to include businesses with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$500 million (up from \$50 million) until 30 June 2020.	22-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>



# Australia

Action type	Category	Regulator	Details	Date	Link
Financial Stimulus	Loan guarantee schemes	Aus Gov Treasury	Under the Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme, the Government will provide a guarantee of 50 percent to SME lenders to support new short-term unsecured loans to SMEs. The Scheme will guarantee up to \$40 billion of new lending.	22-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Relaxation of lending requirements	Aus Gov Treasury	The Government is cutting red tape by providing a temporary exemption from responsible lending obligations for lenders providing credit to existing small business customers.	22-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Government investments in securitisations by lenders	Aus Gov Treasury / AOFM	The Government is providing the Australian Office of Financial Management (AOFM) with \$15 billion to invest in structured finance markets used by smaller lenders, including non-Authorised Deposit-Taking Institutions (non-ADIs) and smaller Authorised Deposit-Taking Institutions (ADIs). This support will be provided by making direct investments in primary market securitisations by these lenders and in warehouse facilities.	22-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Other planned policy and supervision initiatives	APRA	APRA announced suspension of the majority of its planned policy and supervision initiatives. APRA is therefore suspending all substantive public consultations and actions to finalise revisions to the prudential framework that are currently underway or upcoming, including consultations on prudential and reporting standards. It will keep the situation under review, but presently does not plan to recommence consultation on any non-essential matters before 30 September 2020.	23-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Loan guarantee schemes	APRA	Where a borrower who has been meeting their repayment obligations until recently chooses to take up the offer not to make repayments as part of a COVID-19 support package, the bank need not treat the period of the repayment holiday as a period of arrears. Similarly, loans that have been granted a repayment deferral as part of a COVID-19 support package need not be regarded as restructured. APRA also confirmed that the Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme announced by the Commonwealth Government yesterday is to be regarded as an eligible guarantee by the government for risk-weighting purposes.	23-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Other planned policy and supervision initiatives	APRA	APRA has announced the temporary suspension of its program to replace APRA's Direct to APRA (D2A) data collection tool with APRA Connect.	24-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Implementation of Basel 3 final package	APRA	Deferring the scheduled implementation of the Basel 3 reforms by one year (consistent with BCBS).	30-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Direction to release liquidity buffers / easing of liquidity requirements	APRA	A core component of the TFF is the RBA's commitment to make funding available to ADIs equivalent to 3 percent of an ADI's total credit outstanding to Australian resident households and (non-related) businesses (the Initial Allowance). APRA will allow ADIs to include the benefit of the Initial Allowance in the calculation of the Liquidity Coverage Ratio, Minimum Liquidity Holdings Ratio and Net Stable Funding Ratio from 31 March 2020, to the extent they have the necessary unencumbered collateral to access the facility.	30-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	IFRS 9	AASB	AASB has released a link to the document published by IASB highlighting requirements within IFRS 9 that are relevant for companies considering how the pandemic affects their accounting for expected credit losses (ECL). It does not change, remove nor add to, the requirements in IFRS 9 Financial Instruments. It is intended to support the consistent and robust application of IFRS 9.	30-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Deferral of reporting requirements for financial institutions	APRA	These changes apply to all Authorised Deposit Taking Institutions (ADIs) and Registered Financial Corporations (RFCs), and are effective immediately: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>granting a temporary extension of the notification period for changes to accountability statements and maps under the Bank Executive Accountability Regime (BEAR);</li> <li>the introduction of a new reporting standard for ADIs and RFCs regarding lending to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), to support the Commonwealth Government's Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme;</li> <li>early implementation of APRA's November 2019 proposal to standardise reporting due dates for ADI quarterly forms, only where that represents an extension of due dates, and extending this to RFCs;</li> <li>deferral of the introduction of certain new reporting standards until the March 2021 reporting period;</li> <li>deferral of APRA's proposal to determine certain ADI data non-confidential until further notice; and</li> <li>a continuation of parallel reporting of Reporting Standards ARS 331.0 Selected Revenues and Expenses (ARS 331.0); RRS 331.0 Selected Revenue and Expenses (RRS 331.0) and the ABS Quarterly Business Indicators Survey (QBIS) until the June 2020 quarter.</li> </ul>	01-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	Risk management given economic conditions and market volatility	APRA / ASIC	APRA Deputy Chair Helen Rowell and Australian Securities and Investments Commissioner Danielle Press have issued a joint letter to superannuation trustees on COVID-19. The letter, published on both the APRA and ASIC websites, gives trustees guidance to help them manage the financial and operational challenges associated with COVID-19, while continuing to meet their obligations to look after members' best interests.	01-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>

# Japan

Action type	Category	Regulator	Details	Date	Link
Financial Stimulus	Loan principal payment holiday schemes and other relief measures	FSA	<p>The FSA has requested financial institutions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up carefully on circumstances at companies that have existing loans and be quick and flexible in changing loan conditions, e.g. offering concessions on principal/interest repayment</li> <li>Actively implement emergency lending programs for new loans (and make collateral/guarantee requirements more flexible) to meet the needs of companies promptly and appropriately, including the use of safety net loans/guarantees from policy financial institutions and credit guarantee associations</li> <li>Establish systems capable of providing prompt and appropriate support for companies</li> <li>Avoid unnecessarily requested large numbers of documents from companies</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, the government has established an emergency loan/guarantee line of JPY500 billion for troubled companies, to be disbursed through the Japan Finance Corporation.</p>	06-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Requirements for listed companies	FSA	<p>The FSA has relaxed the deadline for submission of annual securities and other reports, as mentioned below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regarding the disclosure of the documents based on the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act, if they cannot be submitted by the deadline due to unavoidable reasons triggered by the impact of COVID-19, such as making it impossible to continue the auditing of Chinese subsidiaries, the company may receive an extension to the submission deadline according to the approval of the head of its local Finance Bureau or its branch office:</li> </ol> <p>Annual securities report and Internal controls report: Within three months following the end of the fiscal year            Quarterly securities report: Within 45 days following the end of the quarterly accounting period            Semi-annual securities report: Within three months following the end of the interim accounting period</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additionally, regarding extraordinary reports, if a company cannot generate an extraordinary report by itself due to the impact of COVID-19, after the circumstances causing the delay end, the company shall submit the report as soon as possible, and the report shall be deemed to have been submitted without delay.</li> </ol>	13-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Grace periods for insurance policies	FSA	<p>The FSA has requested the Life Insurance Association of Japan, the General Insurance Association of Japan, Foreign Non-Life Insurance Association of Japan and the Small Amount &amp; Short Term Insurance Association of Japan to take the following three actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement appropriate measures, such as a grace period for the payment of premiums and policy renewal</li> <li>Distribute information on the measures above as widely as possible, including to insurance policyholders</li> <li>If an insurance company decides to stop providing over-the-counter services and/or to take other emergency measures, promptly distribute information on such measures, including the names of branches/offices that will implement them, to all customers.</li> </ol>	13-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Monetary Easing	BOJ	<p>The BOJ has decided to enhance monetary easing through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Furthering the supply of funds in the economy by conducting various operations including purchases of Japanese government bonds (JGBs) and the US dollar funds supplying operations</li> <li>Conducting measures to facilitate corporate financing including the introduction of Special Funds-Supplying Operations</li> <li>Making active purchases of exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and Japan real estate investment trusts (J-REITs)</li> <li>Applying a short term negative interest rate of minus 0.1 percent to the Policy-Rate Balances in current accounts held by financial institutions at the Bank</li> <li>Continuing with "Quantitative and Qualitative Monetary Easing (QQE) with Yield Curve Control," aiming to achieve the price stability target of 2 percent</li> </ol>	16-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Requirements for listed companies	TSE	<p>The Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) has provided an overview with respect to the disclosure and listing rule policy for listed companies in response to the spread of COVID-19, as mentioned below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timely disclosure and delisting: Request timely and appropriate disclosure of the impact of the spread of COVID-19 on business activities and business performance</li> <li>Delisting of excess liabilities: If excess liabilities are due to the effects of COVID-19, grace period can be extended from one year to two years</li> <li>Suspension of business activities: Not applicable if it takes place due to COVID-19</li> </ol>	18-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>

# Japan

Action type	Category	Regulator	Details	Date	Link
Financial Stimulus	Loan guarantee schemes	FSA	<p>The Japanese government decided on a COVID-19 Emergency Response Package for small to medium sized enterprises and small businesses that are facing sudden declines in sales due to the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.</p> <p>These businesses would be eligible for a special loan system that would be made available by the Japan Finance Corporation and the Okinawa Development Finance Corporation.</p>	24-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Direction to release liquidity buffers / easing of liquidity requirements	BOJ	<p>The Bank of Japan (BOJ) has set that financial institutions that are subject to the capital buffer and liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) requirements under applicable laws and regulations should satisfy these requirements under the rules and criteria for the Bank's operations. These include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The criteria for eligibility to hold current accounts at the Bank and to have access to its lending facilities</li> <li>2. The criteria for selecting counterparties for the Bank's market operations, and the conditions for eligible counterparties for the Complementary Lending Facility.</li> </ol> <p>Even if a financial institution does not satisfy the requirements prescribed in the laws and regulations, in cases where the Bank judges that there is a high probability that the institution will steadily improve toward meeting these requirements, the institution remains eligible for the operations.</p>	30-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>

# Singapore

Action type	Category	Regulator	Details	Date	Link
Forbearance	Requirements for listed companies	MAS	New legislation will allow issuers the flexibility to limit the number of participants in a physical meeting and for other participants to participate by virtual means, or hold meetings solely by virtual means (i.e. without a physical meeting), notwithstanding any contrary provisions in their constitutive documents. Issuers are to put in place arrangements for participants to cast their votes remotely in writing or through electronic means. Time extensions are in place for issuers with 31 Dec year-end to hold their annual general meetings by 30 June 2020. Issuers who may need more time to put in place alternative arrangements for organising virtual meetings will be able to obtain an extension to do so.	25-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Temporary liquidity/funding facilities for banks	MAS	MAS will provide up to US\$60 billion of funding to banks in Singapore through a new MAS USD Facility. The Facility will support more stable USD funding conditions in Singapore, and facilitate USD lending to businesses in Singapore and the region.	26-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Requirements for listed companies	MAS	SGX RegCo had previously announced that issuers are able to defer AGMs to after 30 April 2020. This updated guidance allows issuers that choose to proceed with general meetings before 30 April 2020, to be able to do so by, amongst others, providing opportunities for shareholders to ask questions, the meeting to be shown by "live" webcast and allowing proxy voting.	31-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Loan principal payment holiday schemes and other relief measures	MAS	<p>MAS and other bodies announced a package of opt-in measures to help individuals meet their loan and insurance commitments, support SMEs with continued access to bank credit and insurance cover, and ensure interbank funding markets remain liquid and well-functioning.</p> <p>The MAS together with the Association of Banks in Singapore (ABS), the Life Insurance Association (LIA), the General Insurance Association (GIA) and the Finance Houses Association of Singapore (FHAS) announced a package of measures, including Banking specific items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deferment of payment of residential property loans</li> <li>2. Lower interest on personal unsecured credit</li> <li>3. Deferment of payment of principal on secured SME loans</li> <li>4. Lower interest on SME Loans</li> </ol>	31-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Grace periods for insurance policies	MAS	<p>MAS and other bodies announced a package of opt-in measures to help individuals meet their loan and insurance commitments, support SMEs with continued access to bank credit and insurance cover, and ensure interbank funding markets remain liquid and well-functioning.</p> <p>The MAS together with the ABS, the LIA, the GIA and the FHAS announced a package of measures, including Insurance specific items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deferment of premium payments for life and health insurance</li> <li>2. Flexible instalment plans for general insurance</li> <li>3. Assistance with insurance premium payments</li> </ol>	31-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	Lending and consumer protection	MAS	MAS Clarifies Loan-to-Value and Total Debt Servicing Ratio Rules for Residential Mortgages and Mortgage Equity Withdrawal Loans. This will help individuals and businesses explore options to meet their cash flow needs.	7-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Reduction in capital or regulatory reserve requirements	MAS	MAS encourages banks to utilise their capital buffers as appropriate to support their lending activities and announces it will allow banks to recognise as capital more of their regulatory loss allowance reserves	7-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Direction to release liquidity buffers / easing of liquidity requirements	MAS	MAS reminds banks they may utilise their liquidity buffers as necessary to meet liquidity demands.	7-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Reduction in capital or regulatory reserve requirements	MAS	MAS announces it will allow FIs to take into account the government's fiscal assistance and banks' relief measures in setting more realistic accounting loan loss allowances.	7-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>

# Singapore

Action type	Category	Regulator	Details	Date	Link
Delayed Activity	Implementation of Basel 3 final package	MAS	MAS announces it will defer FIs' implementation of the final set of Basel 3 reforms, margin requirements for non-centrally cleared derivatives, and other new regulations and policies, to ease FIs' operational burden.	7-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Initial margin final phases	MAS	MAS announces it will defer FIs' implementation of margin requirements for non-centrally cleared derivatives.	7-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Other planned policy and supervision initiatives	MAS	MAS will defer the implementation of certain licensing and conduct requirements, which were introduced under the Securities and Futures (Amendment) Act 2017. MAS will also defer the following new policies where consultations have closed. FIs will be provided sufficient time for transition to the new dates when announced. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements on Controls Against Market Abuse</li> <li>• Guidelines on Individual Accountability and Conduct/Information Paper on Culture and Conduct Practices of Financial Institutions</li> <li>• Complaints Handling and Resolution Regulations</li> <li>• Requirements on Execution of Customers' Orders</li> </ul>	7-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Deferral of reporting requirements for financial institutions	MAS	MAS announces it will provide FIs more latitude on submission timelines for regulatory reports and defer non-urgent industry projects and suspend regular onsite inspections and supervisory visits till further notice.	7-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	Risk management given economic conditions and market volatility	MAS	MAS issues guidance to financial institutions on maintaining key financial services to customers and sustaining the flow of credit to the economy. They should also ensure operational resilience and sound risk management amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. They must remain vigilant to heightened risks such as cybersecurity threats, fraudulent transactions and scams, money laundering, and terrorism financing.	7-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Other planned policy and supervision initiatives	MAS	MAS announced that it will extend the assessment period for the award of digital bank licences in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Successful applicants will be informed in 2H 2020 instead of June 2020 as originally intended.	9-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Relief measures for real estate investment funds	MAS	The Ministry of Finance (MOF), the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS) and the MAS announced new measures to provide real estate investment trusts listed on the Singapore Exchange (S-REITs) with greater flexibility to manage their cash flows and raise funds amid a challenging operating environment due to COVID-19. These comprise an extension of the deadline for distribution of taxable income by MOF and IRAS, as well as a raising of the leverage limit and deferment of new regulatory requirements by MAS.	16-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Temporary liquidity/funding facilities for banks	MAS	MAS has launched the MAS SGD Facility for ESG Loans in partnership with Enterprise Singapore (ESG), to lend Singapore Dollars (SGD) at an interest rate of 0.1% per annum to eligible financial institutions, to support their lending to SMEs under the ESG Loan Schemes. The Facility will help financial institutions to make loans to SME borrowers more affordable. In pricing SME loans, financial institutions typically take into account their cost of funds, their cost of underwriting, and a credit spread to reflect the risk profile of the borrower. By providing financial institutions funding at the low interest rate of 0.1% per annum, for a two-year tenor, the Facility reduces the financial institutions' cost of funds for loans made under the ESG Loan Schemes. This will help SMEs manage their cash flow better amidst the current COVID-19 pandemic.	20-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>

# Europe

Action type	Category	Regulator	Details	Date	Link
Guidance	Risk management given economic conditions and market volatility	ESMA	The ESMA outlined four key recommendations made to financial market participants. This includes: Business Continuity Planning, Market disclosure, Financial reporting and Fund Management.	11-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Direction to release liquidity buffers / easing of liquidity requirements	EBA	The EBA released a statement on actions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the EU banking sector. This includes the recommendation for NCAs to make full use, where appropriate, of flexibility embedded in the regulatory framework. In addition, the postponement of the EU-wide stress test to 2021 is also acknowledged.	12-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Reduction in capital or regulatory reserve requirements	ESRB	Several jurisdictions have announced that they are reducing their Countercyclical capital buffer (CCyB) rates. This is the case so far in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom (list of countries from the ESRB, last updated 24 March).	24-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Other planned policy and supervision initiatives	EBA	EBA has postponed activities and further actions to support banks' focus on key operations.	25-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	Lending and consumer protection	EBA	The EBA released a statement on consumer and payment issues.	25-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	IFRS 9	EBA	The EBA released a statement on the application of the prudential framework regarding Default, Forbearance and IFRS 9.	25-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	IFRS 9	EBA	The EBA provides clarity to banks and consumers on the application of the prudential framework.	25-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	IFRS 9	ESMA	The ESMA issued a Public Statement on some accounting implications of the economic support and relief measures adopted by EU Member States. The measures include moratoria on repayment of loans and the impact on the calculation of expected credit losses in accordance with IFRS 9.	25-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	Dividend distribution, share buybacks and variable remuneration	ECB	ECB asks banks not to pay dividends until at least October 2020 in order to boost banks' capacity to absorb losses and support lending to households, small businesses and corporates. Banks should also refrain from share buy-backs aimed at remunerating shareholders.	27-Mar	
Guidance	Anti-money laundering	EBA	Statement on actions to mitigate financial crime risks in the COVID-19 pandemic.	31-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	Dividend distribution, share buybacks and variable remuneration	EBA	Statement on dividends distribution, share buybacks and variable remuneration.	31-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Deferral of reporting requirements for financial institutions	EBA	Statement on supervisory reporting and Pillar 3 disclosures in light of COVID-19.	31-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	Dividend distribution, share buybacks and variable remuneration	EBA	EBA clarified its expectations in relation to dividend and remuneration policies, and additional clarity on measures following its call for flexibility in the prudential framework and supervisory approaches to support lending into the real economy. EBA provided additional guidance on how to use flexibility in supervisory reporting and recalled the necessary measures to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing.	31-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Reduction in capital or regulatory reserve requirements	ESRB	Several jurisdictions have announced that they are reducing their Countercyclical capital buffer (CCyB) rates. This is the case so far in Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom (list of jurisdictions from the ESRB, last updated 1 April).	1-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Loan principal payment holiday schemes and other relief measures	EBA	The EBA issued Guidelines on legislative and non-legislative moratoria on loan repayments applied in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This clarifies the application of the definition of default and classification of forbearance in the context of the various measures taken by the Member States.	2-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>

# Europe

Action type	Category	Regulator	Details	Date	Link
Guidance	Risk management given economic conditions and market volatility	ESMA	ESMA has updated its risk assessment to account for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of the pandemic and its impact on the EU economy and financial markets, ESMA assesses the risks in its overall remit, the securities markets, infrastructures and in asset management as all very high for the time being. The same applies to liquidity and market risks, and they expect a rise in operational, credit, contagion and consumer risks.	2-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	IFRS 9	ECB	The ECB sent to all significant institutions a letter regarding IFRS 9 in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The letter, with accompanying annex, seeks to clarify how the ECB would like to avoid excessive procyclical assumptions in IFRS 9 models to determine provisioning by expecting banks to use ECB staff's published macroeconomic forward looking information from March 2020 when estimating ECL given the current context of uncertainty. Furthermore, they expect banks to use informed judgement to update those projections to reflect lockdowns, severe social distancing restrictions imposed, public support measures as well as the potential rebound on the economy.	1-Apr	
Forbearance	Relaxation of lending requirements	ECB	On Tuesday 7 April, the ECB published some additional clarifications regarding a complementary package of <a href="#">temporary collateral easing measures</a> to facilitate the availability of eligible collaterals with regard to liquidity providing operations (TLTRO III) which were previously announced. It complements LTROs and PEPP for supporting the provision of bank lending, in particular: The ECB adopts an unprecedented set of collateral measures to mitigate the tightening of financial conditions across the euro area Temporary increase in the Eurosystem's risk tolerance in order to support credit to the economy The ECB eases the conditions for the use of credit claims as collateral The ECB adopts a general reduction of collateral valuation haircuts Waiver to accept Greek sovereign debt instruments as collateral in Eurosystem credit operations	7-Apr	
Financial Stimulus	Reduction in capital or regulatory reserve requirements	ECB	The ECB issued a press release stating the <a href="#">support to the measures taken by euro area macroprudential authorities</a> to address the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the financial sector. The measures announced by national macroprudential authorities since 11 March 2020 will free up more than €20 billions of Common Equity Tier 1 capital held by euro area banks. They include releases or reductions of the countercyclical capital buffer, systemic risk buffer and buffers for other systemically important institutions. In addition, some authorities have postponed or since revoked earlier announced measures to avoid placing pressure on banks to accumulate capital buffers in a downturn. The ECB also published an overview of the <a href="#">macroprudential measures taken by euro area authorities</a> and their impact on banks' regulatory capital.	15-Apr	
Financial Stimulus	Reduction in capital or regulatory reserve requirements	ECB	The ECB announced a <a href="#">temporary reduction in capital requirements for market risk</a> , by allowing banks to adjust the supervisory component of these requirements. With this decision, the ECB is responding to the extraordinary levels of volatility recorded in financial markets since the outbreak of COVID-19, as well as smoothing procyclicality.	16-Apr	
Financial Stimulus	Reduction in capital or regulatory reserve requirements	ESRB	Several jurisdictions have announced that they are reducing their Countercyclical capital buffer (CCyB) rates. This is the case so far in Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom (list of jurisdictions from the ESRB).	17-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Reduction in capital or regulatory reserve requirements	EBA	EBA provides further guidance on additional flexibility in relation to market risk, SREP, recovery planning, digital operational resilience and ICT risk and securitisation in the context of COVID-19 and calls for heightened attention to risks.	22-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Relaxation of lending requirements	ECB	The Governing Council of the ECB <a href="#">adopted temporary measures to mitigate the effect on collateral availability of possible rating downgrades</a> resulting from the economic fallout from the pandemic. The decision complements the broader collateral easing package that was announced on 7 April 2020. Together these measures aim to ensure that banks have sufficient assets that they can mobilise as collateral with the Eurosystem to participate in the liquidity-providing operations and to continue providing funding to the euro area economy.	22-Apr	

# United Kingdom

Action type	Category	Regulator	Details	Date	Link
Financial Stimulus	Reduction in capital or regulatory reserve requirements	PRA	UK countercyclical buffer (CCyB) reduced to 0% from 1%, effective immediately. Expected to remain at this level for at least 12 months. Subsequent increases will not take effect until March 2022 at the earliest. The FPC had previously announced (Dec 2019) that the CCyB would increase to 2% in December 2020. PRA reiterates that capital and liquidity buffers are intended to be used in times of stress.	11-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Implementation of Basel 3 final package	PRA	BoE/PRA statement on UK implementation of Basel final reforms – UK will be in line with other jurisdictions (see International & EU developments)	20-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Other planned policy and supervision initiatives	PRA	Implementation of proposals related to Definition of Default, Probability of Default and Loss Given Default estimation delayed by 1 year until 1 January 2022. Move to "hybrid" IRB models also delayed until 1 January 2022.	20-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	IFRS 9	PRA	Statement on IFRS 9 – the PRA published initial guidance, acknowledging the uncertainty of COVID-19 impacts on expected credit losses (ECL) under IFRS 9: (i) it expects firms' forecasts to reflect the temporary nature of the shock, and fully take into account the significant economic support measures already announced by global fiscal and monetary authorities; (ii) Mortgage repayment holidays announced by the UK government are not expected to be a sufficient condition to move participating borrowers into Stage 2 ECL. However, any significant increase in the probability of default could still result in these exposures moving to Stage 2, (iii) Banks also need to carefully consider how to apply days past due criteria considering these concessions and how their specific terms (e.g. whether interest still accrues during the payment holiday) should be accounted for. Further guidance is expected next week.	20-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Supervisor-driven stress tests	PRA	BoE 2021 Biennial Exploratory Scenario (BES, including climate change scenario) paused until further notice.	20-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Supervisor-driven stress tests	PRA	BoE 2020 Annual Cyclical Scenario (ACS) cancelled.	20-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Other planned policy and supervision initiatives	FCA	FCA supports ESMA statement and will not prioritise supervision of SFTR reporting requirements until at least 13 July 2020 (delayed from 13 April 2020).	20-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Requirements for listed companies	FCA	FCA strongly requests all listed companies to observe a moratorium on the publication of preliminary financial statements for at least two weeks. FCA reminds companies that the Market Abuse Regulation remains in full force and listed companies are still required to announce inside information to the market as soon as possible unless a valid reason to delay disclosure under the regulation exists. (The practice of issuing preliminary financial statements is common among UK-listed companies but is not required by either the Listing Rules or the Transparency Directive. Rather, the requirement is that companies publish full audited financial statements within four months of the financial year end.)	21-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Loan guarantee schemes	Treasury	The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) supports small and medium-sized businesses, with an annual turnover of up to £45 million, to access loans, overdrafts, invoice finance and asset finance of up to £5 million for up to 6 years. The government will provide lenders with a guarantee of 80% on each loan (subject to pre-lender cap on claims) to give lenders further confidence in continuing to provide finance to small and medium-sized businesses. The scheme is delivered through commercial lenders, backed by the government-owned British Business Bank.	23-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	LIBOR transition	FCA	FCA, Bank of England and members of the Working Group on Sterling Risk-Free Reference Rates state that the central assumption that firms cannot rely on LIBOR being published after the end of 2021 has not changed and should remain the target date for all firms to meet. Many preparations for transition will be able to continue. There has, however, been an impact on the timing of some aspects of the transition programmes of many firms. Particularly in segments of the UK market that have made less progress in transition and are therefore still more reliant on LIBOR, such as the loan market, it is likely to affect some of the interim transition milestones.	25-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>



# United Kingdom

Action type	Category	Regulator	Details	Date	Link
Financial Stimulus	Direction to release liquidity buffers / easing of liquidity requirements	FCA	Guidance issued by the FCA to remind firm that capital and liquidity buffers are there to be used in times of stress. Firms who have been set buffers can use them to support the continuation of the firm's activities. Firms should be planning ahead and ensuring the sound management of their financial resources. Equally, Government schemes to help firms through this period can be part of a firm's plans for how they will meet debts as they fall due.	25-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	Lending and consumer protection	FCA	Guidance for mortgage lenders, mortgage administrators, home purchase providers and home purchase administrators to ensure an appropriate customer focus. Topics include agreements to payments holidays and a cessation of repossessions.	25-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Loan principal payment holiday schemes and other relief measures	PRA	Dear CEO letter providing further guidance on the treatment of payment holidays and similar schemes offered by banks and building societies on all loans (not limited to government-endorsed payment holidays on mortgages) as well as economic forecasts used in calculating expected credit losses (ECL) in terms of IFRS 9.	26-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Other planned policy and supervision initiatives	FCA	FCA has delayed its second assessing suitability review	26-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	Remote working arrangements	FCA	General FCA statement covering when firms are moving to alternative sites and working from home arrangements, they must consider broader control environment in new circumstances. The FCA expects firms to consider what steps they could take to mitigate outstanding risks if they are unable to comply with their obligations to record voice communications. Where firms experience difficulties in submitting regulatory data, the FCA expects them to maintain appropriate records during this period and submit data as soon as possible.	26-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Direction to release liquidity buffers / easing of liquidity requirements	FCA	FCA states that capital and liquidity buffers are there to be used in times of stress. Firms who have been set buffers can use them to support the continuation of the firm's activities.	26-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	Risk management given economic conditions and market volatility	TPR	The Pensions Regulator (TPR) recognises that these are "unprecedented times" and that trustees and employers are facing significant and complex challenges across a range of issues. To help support, the TPR has issued 5 sets of guidance covering Schemes completing their valuations now, employers' requests for easements, investments and transfer values. The final set of guidance sets out what firms can expect of TPR.	27-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	Remote working arrangements	FCA	Each firm's designated Senior Manager or equivalent person is responsible for identifying which of their employees are unable to perform their jobs from home, and have to travel to the office or business continuity site. The FCA expects the total number of roles requiring an ongoing physical presence in the office or business continuity site to be far smaller than the number of workers needed to ensure all of a firm's business activities continue to function on a business as usual basis.	29-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Suitability, selling process and best execution requirements	FCA	Dear CEO letter to retail investment firms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Client identity verification needs to continue, but firms have flexibility within the rules</li> <li>Supervisory flexibility over best execution until the end of June</li> <li>Supervisory flexibility over 10% depreciation notifications until the end of September</li> <li>FCA Policy and implementation - pause on implementation of investment pathways and other measures</li> <li>Financial resilience - Government loans cannot be used to meet capital adequacy requirements as they do not meet the definition of capital</li> </ul>	31-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	Dividend distribution, share buybacks and variable remuneration	PRA	The PRA sent a Dear CEO letter to the seven largest systemically important UK deposit takers, requesting that they consider suspending dividends and buy-backs for ordinary shares for the rest of 2020. The PRA also asked banks to cancel payment of 2019 dividends and consider suspending cash bonus payments for senior staff, including material risk takers. The banks had until 20:00 31 March to respond.	31-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Loan guarantee schemes	Treasury	Outlining further details of the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loans Scheme (CLBILS) ahead of its launch, the Chancellor said all firms with a turnover of more than £45 million will now be able to apply for up to £25 million of finance, and up to £50 million for firms with a turnover of more than £250 million.	16-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>

# United States

Action type	Category	Regulator	Details	Date	Link
Forbearance	Requirements for listed companies	SEC	The SEC issued an order that provides publicly traded companies an additional 45 days to file certain disclosure reports that would otherwise have been due between March 1 and April 30, 2020.	4-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Requirements for listed companies	SEC	The SEC issued orders and staff guidance to assist public companies, investment companies and shareholders with upcoming annual shareholder meetings.	13-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Deferral of reporting requirements for financial institutions	SEC	The SEC provided relief to certain investment funds and investment advisers related to requirements for in-person board meetings and certain filing and delivery requirements, such as certain in-person board votes, annual and semi-annual filings, and client disclosures.	13-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Other planned policy and supervision initiatives	SEC	The SEC provided no-action relief extending compliance with the Consolidated Audit Trail reporting.	16-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Direction to release liquidity buffers / easing of liquidity requirements	FRB, FDIC, OCC	The federal banking agencies encouraged banking organisations to use their capital and liquidity buffers to support households and businesses; and published an Interim final rule that phases in the agencies' automatic distribution restrictions gradually, if a bank's capital declines by a certain amount.	17-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	Remote working arrangements	CFTC	The CFTC provided no-action relief from recording of oral communications related to voice trading and other telephonic communications as well as certain time-stamping requirements for a variety of entities.	17-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Temporary liquidity/funding facilities for banks	FRB	The FRB established a <a href="#">Primary Dealer Credit Facility (PDCF)</a> to allow primary dealers to support smooth market functioning and facilitate the availability of credit to businesses and households. The PDCF offers overnight and term funding with maturities up to 90 days to Primary Dealers of the New York Federal Reserve Bank. Credit extended to primary dealers under this facility may be collateralised by a broad range of investment grade debt securities, including commercial paper and municipal bonds, and a broad range of equity securities. The PDCF will be in place for at least six months and may be extended as conditions warrant.	17-Mar	
Financial Stimulus	Temporary liquidity/funding facilities for banks	FRB	The FRB established a <a href="#">Commercial Paper Funding Facility (CPFF)</a> to support the flow of credit to households and businesses. CPFF would be used to purchase unsecured and asset-backed commercial paper rated at least A1/P1/F1 (as of March 17, 2020) directly from eligible companies, defined to be US issuers of commercial paper, including US issuers with a foreign parent company. Purchases under the CPFF will continue through March 17, 2021 unless extended by the FRB.	17-Mar	
Financial Stimulus	Temporary liquidity/funding facilities for banks	FRB	The FRB established a <a href="#">Money Market Mutual Fund Liquidity Facility (MMLF)</a> to make loans available to eligible financial institutions secured by high-quality assets purchased by the financial institution from money market mutual funds. "Eligible financial institutions" are defined as US depository institutions, US bank holding companies, and US branches and agencies of a foreign bank. High-quality assets include unsecured and secured commercial paper, agency securities and Treasury securities. Certain categories of state and municipal debt and other securities were subsequently added.	18-Mar	
Guidance	Lending and consumer protection	FHFA	The Federal Housing Finance Agencies suspended, for at least 60 days, foreclosures and evictions on single-family mortgages backed by the GSEs, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.	18-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Initial margin final phases	CFTC	The CFTC extended the initial margin compliance deadline for one year for market participants with the smallest uncleared swaps portfolios.	18-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Loan principal payment holiday schemes and other relief measures	FRB, FDIC, OCC	The federal banking agencies issued a joint statement on expedited consideration of CRA credits for banking and lending activities responsive to low- and moderate-income individuals, small businesses and small farms.	19-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Reduction in capital or regulatory reserve requirements	FRB, FDIC, OCC	The federal banking agencies published an Interim final rule to "neutralise" the effect of participating in the FRB's MMLF for regulatory capital purposes, including risk-based and leverage requirements.	19-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>

# United States

Action type	Category	Regulator	Details	Date	Link
Financial Stimulus	Reduction in capital or regulatory reserve requirements	FRB, FDIC, OCC	The federal banking agencies published an Interim final rule to modify the definition of "eligible retained income" in order to "strengthen the incentives for a banking organisation to use its capital buffers in adverse conditions."	20-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Loan principal payment holiday schemes and other relief measures	Department of Education	The Department of Education suspended interest accruals on federal student loans for at least 60 days.	20-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Loan guarantee schemes	FRB	The FRB established the <a href="#">Primary Market Corporate Credit Facility (PMCCF)</a> for new bond and loan issuances. This facility is open to investment grade companies and will provide bridge financing of four years. Borrowers may elect to defer interest and principal payments during the first six months of the loan, extendable at the Federal Reserve's discretion, in order to have additional cash on hand that can be used to pay employees and suppliers.	23-Mar	
Financial Stimulus	Monetary easing	FRB	The FRB established the <a href="#">Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facility (SMCCF)</a> to provide liquidity for outstanding corporate bonds. The SMCCF will purchase in the secondary market corporate bonds issued by investment grade US companies and US-listed exchange-traded funds whose investment objective is to provide broad exposure to the market for U.S. investment grade corporate bonds.	23-Mar	
Financial Stimulus	Loan guarantee schemes	FRB	The FRB established the <a href="#">Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility (TALF)</a> to support the flow of credit to consumers and businesses. The TALF will enable the issuance of asset-backed securities (ABS) backed by student loans, auto loans, credit card loans, loans guaranteed by the Small Business Administration (SBA), and certain other assets.	23-Mar	
Financial Stimulus	Loan guarantee schemes	FRB	The FRB announced intentions to establish a <a href="#">Main Street Business Lending Program</a> to support lending to eligible small-and-medium sized businesses, complementing efforts by the SBA. Details have not yet been released.	23-Mar	
Forbearance	Relaxation of lending requirements	HFA	The FHFA directed Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to provide alternative flexibilities to satisfy appraisal requirements and employment verification requirements through May 17, 2020.	23-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Other planned policy and supervision initiatives	FRB	The FRB delayed the effective implementation date of policy changes to Part II of the Payments System Risk policy by six months..	24-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Deferral of reporting requirements for financial institutions	FRB, OCC, FDIC	The federal banking agencies provided a 30-day grace period for the March 31 Call Report Date.	25-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Deferral of reporting requirements for financial institutions	CFPB	The CFPB provided reporting relief for certain HMDA reports and credit card and prepaid account submissions.	26-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Deferral of reporting requirements for financial institutions	FRB	The FRB provided a 30-day grace period for small financial institutions filings of their March 31, 2020 FY-Y-9C and FR-Y-11.	26-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	Lending and consumer protection	FRB, OCC, FDIC, CFPB, NCUA	The federal banking agencies, CFPB, and NCUA issued a joint statement encouraging institutions to offer responsible, small-dollar loans to consumers and small businesses.	26-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Deferral of reporting requirements for financial institutions	SEC	The SEC provided temporary relief and assistance, through an order and interim final rule, impacting market participants, including relief addressing Form ID notarization requirements, Regulation Crowdfunding, and annual updates to Form MA for municipal advisers.	27-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>

# United States

Action type	Category	Regulator	Details	Date	Link
Financial Stimulus	Reduction in capital or regulatory reserve requirements	FRB, OCC, FDIC	The federal banking agencies provided notice that banking organisations may adopt the SA-CCR early for the reporting period ending March 31, to help improve current market liquidity and smooth disruptions. Additionally, the agencies issued an interim final rule that allows banking organisations to mitigate the effects of the "current expected credit loss," or CECL, accounting standard in their regulatory capital.	27-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Reduction in capital or regulatory reserve requirements	FRB, OCC, FDIC	The federal banking agencies issued an interim final rule that allows banking organisations the option to defer for two years the effects of the current expected credit loss (CECL), accounting standard in their regulatory capital.	27-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Relaxation of lending requirements	FHFA	The FHFA announced loan processing flexibilities for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.	31-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Suitability, selling process and best execution requirements	CFTC	The CFTC provided temporary no-action relief to foreign affiliates of certain futures commission merchants. The relief allows foreign affiliates of FCMs that are exempt from registration with the Commission by CFTC Regulation 30.5 to accept orders from US persons for execution on US contract markets in the event an affiliated FCM's US personnel are unable to handle the order flow of US customers due to their absence from normal business sites.	31-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	CECL	FRB, OCC, FDIC	The federal banking agencies issued a joint statement clarifying the interaction between their interim final rule on CECL and the CARES Act for purposes of regulatory capital requirements.	31-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Other planned policy and supervision initiatives	FRB	The FRB delayed the effective date for its revised control framework by six months to reduce operational burden and allow institutions to focus on current economic conditions.	31-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Temporary liquidity/funding facilities for banks	FRB	The FRB established a temporary repurchase agreement facility for <a href="#">foreign and international monetary authorities (FIMA Repo Facility)</a> to help support the smooth functioning of financial markets. The FIMA Repo Facility will allow FIMA account holders, which consist of central banks and other international monetary authorities with accounts at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, to enter into repurchase agreements with the Federal Reserve to temporarily exchange their US Treasury securities held with the Federal Reserve for US dollars, which can then be made available to institutions in their jurisdictions. The FIMA Repo Facility will be available beginning April 6 and will continue for at least 6 months.	31-Mar	
Guidance	Lending and consumer protection	CFPB	The CFPB issued guidance indicating that lenders should comply with the CARES Act and providing flexibility for lenders and credit bureaus regarding the time they take to investigate disputes.	1-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Reduction in capital or regulatory reserve requirements	FRB	The FRB published an Interim final rule to temporarily amend, through March 31, 2021, its Supplemental Leverage Ratio applicable to large BHCs and SLHCs, and US IHCs.	1-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Loan guarantee schemes	TREAS, SBA	The Department of the Treasury and the Small Business Administration published an interim final rule regarding implementation of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) authorised under the SBA's 7(a) Loan Programs by the CARES Act.	2-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Other planned policy and supervision initiatives	SEC	The SEC delayed action on certain rules but maintained the compliance date for Regulation Best Interest.	2-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Relaxation of lending requirements	CSBS	Five federal agencies and the CSBS issued a joint statement outlining for mortgage servicers the agencies' "flexible supervisory and enforcement approach" toward application of the mortgage servicing rules and short-term repayment and forbearance options.	3-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>

# United States

Action type	Category	Regulator	Details	Date	Link
Financial Stimulus	Reduction in capital or regulatory reserve requirements	FRB, OCC, FDIC	The federal banking agencies issued two interim final rules amending the Community Bank Leverage Ratio.	6-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Forbearance	Relaxation of lending requirements	SEC	Five federal agencies issued a revised statement on loan modifications and troubled debt restructurings to clarify the interaction between the agencies' earlier statement and the CARES Act.	8-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Reduction in capital or regulatory reserve requirements	FRB, OCC, FDIC	The Federal banking agencies issued an interim final rule to amend their capital rules to "neutralize" the impact of lending through the SBA's PPP.	9-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Financial Stimulus	Loan guarantee schemes	FRB	<p>The FRB announced multiple actions affecting credit facilities, including new facilities and expansion of others as follows:</p> <p>A new <a href="#">Paycheck Protection Program Lending Facility (PPPLE)</a> to provide participating lenders with term financing backed by SBA PPP loans.</p> <p>A new <a href="#">Municipal Liquidity Facility (MLF)</a> to purchase short-term notes directly from States and certain municipalities to help them manage cash flows. Eligible notes include tax anticipation notes, revenue anticipation notes, and bond anticipation notes with a maturity of not more than 24 months.</p> <p>Two new facilities under the Main Street Business Lending Program, the <a href="#">Main Street New Loan Facility</a> and the <a href="#">Main Street Extended Loan Facility</a>, to support lending to eligible small-and-medium sized businesses (10,000 or fewer employees or \$2.5 billion or less in revenues), complementing efforts by the SBA. Firms that have SBA PPP loans may also have Main Street loans. Loans are 4 years, bank retains 5 percent.</p> <p>Expansion of the previously established facilities: <a href="#">Primary Market Corporate Credit Facility (PMCCF)</a>, <a href="#">Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facility (SMCCF)</a>, and <a href="#">Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility (TALF)</a>.</p>	9-Apr	
Forbearance	Relaxation of lending requirements	FRB, OCC, FDIC, CFPB, NCUA	Five federal agencies issued an interim final rule to temporarily defer real estate-related appraisals and evaluations under the agencies' interagency appraisal regulations.	14-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>

# Global Bodies

Action type	Category	Regulator	Details	Date	Link
Financial Stimulus	Direction to release liquidity buffers / easing of liquidity requirements	FSB	The FSB released a statement to encourage authorities and financial institutions to make use of the flexibility within existing international standards. Many members of the FSB have already taken action to release available capital and liquidity buffers, in addition to actions to support market functioning and accommodate business continuity plans.	20 -Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Other planned policy and supervision initiatives	BCBS	The BCBS held a conference call on 20 March to discuss the impact on the global banking system. In the immediate term, the Committee is suspending consultation on all policy initiatives and outstanding jurisdictional assessment planned in 2020 under its Regulatory Consistency Assessment Programme.	20-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Implementation of Basel 3 final package	BIS	The BIS announced a series of measures aiming at increasing operational capacity of banks and supervisors to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. In particular, the measures endorsed by the GHOS comprise the postponement of several Basel 3 standard implementation deadlines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The implementation date of the <b>Basel 3 standards</b> finalised in December 2017 has been deferred by one year to 1 January 2023. The accompanying transitional arrangements for the output floor has also been extended by one year to 1 January 2028;</li> <li>• The implementation date of the <b>revised market risk framework</b> finalised in January 2019 has been deferred by one year to 1 January 2023;</li> <li>• The implementation date of the <b>revised Pillar 3 disclosure requirements</b> finalised in December 2018 has been deferred by one year to 1 January 2023.</li> </ul>	27-Mar	<a href="#">Link</a>
Guidance	IFRS 9 / CECL	BIS	The BIS set additional measures to alleviate the impact of COVID-19 on the global banking system. These measures support the provision of lending by banks to the real economy and provide additional operational capacity for banks and supervisors to respond to the immediate financial stability priorities. They complement the <a href="#">previous</a> measures published by the Committee's oversight body, the Group of Central Bank Governors and Heads of Supervision. <p>The document sets out technical guidance related to: (i) the exceptional measures introduced by governments and banks to alleviate the impact of the pandemic; and (ii) expected credit loss (ECL) accounting. The guidance seeks to ensure that banks reflect the risk-reducing effect of the exceptional measures when calculating their capital requirements. It also sets out the amended transitional arrangements for the regulatory capital treatment of ECL accounting, which will provide jurisdictions with greater flexibility in how to phase in the impact of ECL on regulatory capital.</p>	3-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>
Delayed Activity	Initial margin final phases	BIS	The Basel Committee (BIS) and the International Organization of Securities Commissions announced that they have deferred the final implementation phases of the margin requirements for non-centrally cleared derivatives by one year.	3-Apr	<a href="#">Link</a>



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