



Financial Services and Markets Act 2000

2000 CHAPTER 8

PART XVI

THE OMBUDSMAN SCHEME

Information

231 Ombudsman's power to require information.

- (1) An ombudsman may, by notice in writing given to a party to a complaint, require that party—
 - (a) to provide specified information or information of a specified description; or
 - (b) to produce specified documents or documents of a specified description.
- (2) The information or documents must be provided or produced—
 - (a) before the end of such reasonable period as may be specified; and
 - (b) in the case of information, in such manner or form as may be specified.
- (3) This section applies only to information and documents the production of which the ombudsman considers necessary for the determination of the complaint.
- (4) If a document is produced in response to a requirement imposed under this section, the ombudsman may—
 - (a) take copies or extracts from the document; or
 - (b) require the person producing the document to provide an explanation of the document.
- (5) If a person who is required under this section to produce a document fails to do so, the ombudsman may require him to state, to the best of his knowledge and belief, where the document is.
- (6) If a person claims a lien on a document, its production under this Part does not affect the lien.
- (7) "Specified" means specified in the notice given under subsection (1).

Changes to legislation: Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, Cross Heading: Information is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 231 applied (1.12.2001) by S.I. 2001/2326, **arts. 1(1)(b), 11(5)**; S.I. 2001/3538, **art. 2(1)**
- C2** Ss. 228-232 applied (31.10.2004 for certain purposes and 14.1.2005 otherwise) by [The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 \(Transitional Provisions\) \(Complaints Relating to General Insurance and Mortgages\) Order 2004 \(S.I. 2004/454\)](#), arts. 1(2), **5**
S. 231 applied (31.10.2004 for certain purposes and 14.1.2005 otherwise) by [The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 \(Transitional Provisions\) \(Complaints Relating to General Insurance and Mortgages\) Order 2004 \(S.I. 2004/454\)](#), arts. 1(2), **11(5)**
- C3** S. 231 applied (E.W.S.) (29.11.2018 for specified purposes, 1.4.2019 in so far as not already in force) by [The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 \(Claims Management Activity\) Order 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1253\)](#), arts. 1(2)(3), **79(1)**
- C4** S. 231 applied (28.1.2021 for specified purposes, 30.7.2022 in so far as not already in force) by [The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 \(Regulated Activities\) \(Amendment\) Order 2021 \(S.I. 2021/90\)](#), arts. 1(2)(3), **15(1)**

232 Powers of court where information required.

- (1) If a person (“the defaulter”) fails to comply with a requirement imposed under section 231, the ombudsman may certify that fact in writing to the court and the court may enquire into the case.
- (2) If the court is satisfied that the defaulter failed without reasonable excuse to comply with the requirement, it may deal with the defaulter (and, in the case of a body corporate, any director or [^{F1}other] officer) as if he were in contempt [^{F2}; and “officer”, in relation to a limited liability partnership, means a member of the limited liability partnership.].
- (3) “Court” means—
 - (a) the High Court;
 - (b) in Scotland, the Court of Session.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Word in s. 232(2) inserted (24.1.2013 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Financial Services Act 2012 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 122(3), **Sch. 11 para. 8** (with Sch. 20); S.I. 2013/113, art. 2(1)(c), Sch. Pt. 3; S.I. 2013/423, art. 3, Sch.
- F2** Words in s. 232(2) inserted (6.4.2001 for E.W.S and 13.9.2004 for N.I.) by S.I. 2001/1090, regs. 1, 9, Sch. 5 para. 21; S.R. 2004/307, reg. 9, **Sch. 4 para. 17**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C5** S. 232 applied (1.12.2001) by S.I. 2001/2326, **arts. 1(1)(b), 11(5)**; S.I. 2001/3538, **art. 2(1)**
- C6** Ss. 228-232 applied (31.10.2004 for certain purposes and 14.1.2005 otherwise) by [The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 \(Transitional Provisions\) \(Complaints Relating to General Insurance and Mortgages\) Order 2004 \(S.I. 2004/454\)](#), arts. 1(2), **5**
S. 232 applied (31.10.2004 for certain purposes and 14.1.2005 otherwise) by [The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 \(Transitional Provisions\) \(Complaints Relating to General Insurance and Mortgages\) Order 2004 \(S.I. 2004/454\)](#), arts. 1(2), **11(5)**
- C7** S. 232 applied (E.W.S.) (29.11.2018 for specified purposes, 1.4.2019 in so far as not already in force) by [The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 \(Claims Management Activity\) Order 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1253\)](#), arts. 1(2)(3), **79(1)**

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C8 S. 232 applied (28.1.2021 for specified purposes, 30.7.2022 in so far as not already in force) by [The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 \(Regulated Activities\) \(Amendment\) Order 2021 \(S.I. 2021/90\)](#), arts. 1(2)(3), **15(1)**

[^{F3}232A Scheme operator's duty to provide information to FCA

[If the scheme operator considers that it has information that, in its opinion, would or ^{F4}(1)] might be of assistance to the FCA in advancing one or more of the FCA's operational objectives [^{F5}, or the purpose for which the FCA must exercise its functions under Part 8B (see section [131U\(1\)](#)),], it must disclose that information to the FCA.

[The reference in subsection (1) to the FCA's operational objectives includes, in its ^{F6}(2) application as a secondary objective, the competitiveness and growth objective (see section [1EB](#)).]

Textual Amendments

- F3** S. 232A inserted (24.1.2013 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Financial Services Act 2012 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 122(3), **Sch. 11 para. 9** (with [Sch. 20](#)); S.I. 2013/113, art. 2(1)(c), [Sch. Pt. 3](#); S.I. 2013/423, art. 3, [Sch.](#)
- F4** S. 232A renumbered as s. 232A(1) (29.8.2023) by [Financial Services and Markets Act 2023 \(c. 29\)](#), **ss. 28(9)(a)**, 86(3); S.I. 2023/779, **reg. 4(s)**
- F5** Words in s. 232A inserted (29.8.2023) by [Financial Services and Markets Act 2023 \(c. 29\)](#), s. 86(2)(c), **Sch. 8 para. 7**
- F6** S. 232A(2) inserted (29.8.2023) by [Financial Services and Markets Act 2023 \(c. 29\)](#), **ss. 28(9)(b)**, 86(3); S.I. 2023/779, **reg. 4(s)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C9** S. 232A applied (E.W.S.) (29.11.2018 for specified purposes, 1.4.2019 in so far as not already in force) by [The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 \(Claims Management Activity\) Order 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1253\)](#), arts. 1(2)(3), **79(1)**

233 Data protection.

In section 31 of the ^{M1}Data Protection Act 1998 (regulatory activity), after subsection (4), insert—

“(4A) Personal data processed for the purpose of discharging any function which is conferred by or under Part XVI of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 on the body established by the Financial Services Authority for the purposes of that Part are exempt from the subject information provisions in any case to the extent to which the application of those provisions to the data would be likely to prejudice the proper discharge of the function.”

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1998 c. 29.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act applied (with modifications) by [S.I. 2023/1347 reg. 8](#)
- Act power to apply conferred (temp. until 15.5.2039) by [2014 c. 21 s. 79\(4\)](#)
- Act power to apply conferred (temp. until 15.5.2039) by [2014 c. 21 s. 81\(10\)](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- Pt. 17 Ch. 3B inserted by [2023 c. 29 s. 64\(3\)](#)
- Pt. 20C inserted by [2016 c. 14 s. 30\(3\)](#)
- s. 31(1)(aa) inserted by [2021 c. 22 s. 22\(2\)](#)
- s. 32A inserted by [2021 c. 22 s. 22\(3\)](#)
- s. 32A power to apply (with modifications) conferred by [2021 c. 22 s. 23\(10\)](#)
- s. 36A and cross-heading inserted by [2021 c. 22 s. 22\(4\)](#)
- s. 71J and cross-heading inserted by [2021 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 4](#)
- s. 86(9A) inserted by [S.I. 2019/707 reg. 8\(9\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 8(6)-(10) omitted (6.9.2019) by virtue of S.I. 2019/1234, regs. 1(2), 13(c))
- s. 87A(11) inserted by [S.I. 2019/707 reg. 10\(5\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 10(4)(5) omitted (6.9.2019) by virtue of S.I. 2019/1234, regs. 1(2), 15(b))
- s. 124(10)(c)(i) word omitted by [S.I. 2019/310 reg. 5\(11\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 5(11)(b) omitted immediately before IP completion day by virtue of S.I. 2020/1385, regs. 1(4), 51(2)(e))
- s. 129(7)(a) word inserted by [S.I. 2019/310 reg. 5\(12\)\(a\)\(i\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 5(12)(a)(b) omitted immediately before IP completion day by virtue of S.I. 2020/1385, regs. 1(4), 51(2)(f))
- s. 129(7)(c) omitted and word by [S.I. 2019/310 reg. 5\(12\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 5(12)(a)(b) omitted immediately before IP completion day by virtue of S.I. 2020/1385, regs. 1(4), 51(2)(f))
- s. 214(5A) inserted by [2021 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 8](#)
- s. 261E(A1) inserted by [2023 c. 29 s. 64\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 367A inserted by [2021 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 10](#)
- s. 395(13)(h)(i) inserted by [2021 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 12\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 395(13)(bc)-(be) word inserted by [2021 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 12\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 395(14) inserted by [2021 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 12\(3\)](#)
- s. 427A(3) words substituted by [2002 c. 40 Sch. 17 para. 59](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 does not contain a section 427A.)
- Sch. 1ZA para. 32(c) and word inserted by [2021 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 18](#)
- Sch. 2A para. 19(2)(b)(iia) inserted by [2023 c. 29 Sch. 10 para. 19\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 2A2B power to apply (with modifications) conferred by [2021 c. 22 s. 23\(10\)](#)
- Sch. 2A power to apply (with modifications) conferred by [2021 c. 22 s. 23\(10\)](#)
- Sch. 2B inserted by [2021 c. 22 Sch. 7](#)
- Sch. 2B power to apply (with modifications) conferred by [2021 c. 22 s. 23\(10\)](#)
- Sch. 11A para. 5(3) inserted by [S.I. 2019/707 reg. 38\(5\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 38(2)-(5)(7)(8) omitted (6.9.2019) by virtue of S.I. 2019/1234, regs. 1(2), 20)

- Sch. 17A para. 12 words substituted by [S.I. 2019/662 reg. 13\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). Reg. 13(1) substituted (25.6.2020) by S.I. 2020/646, regs. 1(2)(c), 11(3))