FCA PS26/15: Improving the UK transaction reporting regime

Views from the team

FCA delivers the most significant overhaul of UK transaction reporting since MiFID II

The FCA has now published its final Policy Statement PS26/15, confirming a broad package of reforms designed to simplify and modernise the UK transaction reporting regime. For many firms, this represents the most significant change to UK transaction reporting requirements since the introduction of MiFID II and signals a clear shift towards a more proportionate, efficient and harmonised reporting framework.

Transaction reporting remains a critical supervisory tool for the FCA, supporting market abuse surveillance, market monitoring and broader supervisory activities. However, the regulator has recognised that the current framework imposes significant operational costs on firms and contains areas of duplication and complexity. The purpose of PS26/15 is to reduce the reporting burden while maintaining the quality of data needed for effective oversight.

Alongside the measures announced for entry into force on 3 April 2028, there are several burden reduction measures that apply from the Policy Statement's publication on 3 August 2026. Technical specifications and further details are expected in October 2026 - for a more detailed breakdown please see our presentation here.

A move towards a "report once" framework

Beyond the immediate rule changes, PS26/15 sets out the FCA's longer-term strategy for transaction and post-trade reporting. The regulator has reiterated its commitment to harmonising reporting obligations across UK MiFIR, EMIR and SFTR and has established a joint FCA and Bank of England Transaction and Post-trade Reporting Industry Harmonisation Taskforce to support this work. We are delighted to confirm our representation on the FCA taskforce: FCA and Bank appoint members to their Transaction and Post-trade Reporting Harmonisation Taskforce | FCA

ESMA is undertaking a parallel review of long-term reporting burden reduction, supported by its Call for Evidence and Cost-Benefit Analysis submitted to the European Commission. Although both regulators share a common objective of reducing regulatory burden and improving reporting efficiency, they are pursuing different implementation approaches.

The FCA's direction of travel is clear. Future reporting frameworks should collect only the data regulators genuinely require, minimise duplication and enable data to be reused across regulatory regimes. The Authority estimates that firms currently spend approximately £493 million annually complying with UK MiFIR transaction reporting requirements alone, highlighting the scale of the opportunity for simplification.

The FCA expects the reforms to generate annual savings of more than £100 million across the market while maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of the UK's supervisory framework.

The FCA has also encouraged firms to begin planning now by reviewing existing reporting logic, assessing the impact of scope changes and preparing for the revised reporting architecture.

Our view

The FCA has targeted areas that drive significant operational costs while preserving the data required to support market integrity and effective supervision. Many of the changes directly address longstanding industry concerns around reporting complexity, duplication and the ongoing burden of maintaining large-scale reporting infrastructures. Given the close engagement with firms and industry associations it is clear that the Policy Statement has had the intended effect and is widely supported even if some of the detailed questions remain outstanding.

The Policy Statement provides a clear strategic direction. The regulator's commitment to harmonisation across transaction and post-trade reporting regimes aligns closely with industry calls for greater consistency and reduced duplication of reporting obligations. The emphasis on collecting data only where necessary, reporting data once, and enabling appropriate reuse of information represents a sensible foundation for future regulatory reporting reform.

For firms, the immediate focus should be understanding the operational impacts of the scope changes, revised data fields and upcoming reporting standards. However, the broader message from PS26/15 is equally significant. The UK regulatory framework is moving towards greater simplification, standardisation and interoperability, and firms that adopt a strategic approach to data management and reporting architecture will be best positioned to realise the benefits of that transition.

There is concern across the market for divergence between UK and EU rules, given the need for many international firms to meet multiple reporting obligations we are closely monitoring these risks and will continue to advocate for our customers in both the UK and EU. ESMA have indicated a potential reduction to back reporting aligned with the FCA, but broader reform details are yet to be published.

While some firms are expected to take advantage of the available relief from October 2026, many may choose to maintain their existing reporting approach until the new regime takes effect in April 2028. This would allow them to avoid duplicative change programmes and minimise the operational burden associated with testing and implementing evolving standards during the transition period.

To support firms throughout this period, we will align our validation framework with the FCA's planned October 2026 changes. These validation updates will be fully backwards compatible, enabling firms that do not wish to make immediate system changes to continue reporting without disruption, while providing flexibility for those that choose to adopt the new approach earlier.

As the detailed specifications emerge over the coming months, continued collaboration between regulators, ARMs and market participants will be critical to delivering the burden reduction benefits.

If you would like to discuss the impact of PS26/15 on your reporting obligations, contact our expert team to continue the conversation: regreportingsales@lseg.com

lseg.com

LSEG

Regulatory Reporting Solutions