

Gareth Thomas
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

2 February 2026

Our Ref: MC2026/00116

Your Ref: UIN 106092

Dear Gareth Thomas,

Thank you for your Parliamentary Question regarding the current number of applications for new banking licences.

I understand the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) has already provided the response to the specific question you raised. As you may know, the banking authorisation process is dual-regulated, with the PRA as the ultimate decision maker. The PRA cannot authorise a new bank without the consent of the FCA, except in very limited circumstances where it is in the interest of financial stability.

Both regulators engage extensively with prospective applicants ahead of any formal submission, ensuring they understand our expectations and can develop credible proposals.

We continue to improve the efficiency and transparency of the new bank authorisation process and are working towards decision targets of four months for complete applications and ten months for incomplete applications. This is in line with the Government's proposals to shorten statutory decision timelines.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Dominic Cashman
Director, Authorisations