



Banc Ceannais na hÉireann
Central Bank of Ireland

Eurosystem

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Registered Number: «CU_No»

Chairman

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18 June 2013

Re: Fitness and Probity regime for credit unions

Dear Chairman,

The Central Bank has recently carried out a consultation on a Fitness and Probity regime for credit unions (“CP62”). A number of responses to the consultation were received from credit unions and other stakeholders. Most of the respondents were broadly in agreement with the proposals contained in CP62 and the main areas of comment related to the guidance to be provided and the application of the existing Fitness and Probity regime to credit unions that also hold an authorisation as a retail intermediary. These responses, together with a feedback statement outlining our response to the key matters raised during the consultation process, will be made available on the Central Bank website.

Following completion of the consultation and consideration of the responses, the Central Bank is introducing a tailored Fitness and Probity regime for credit unions on a phased basis with transitional arrangements. The first phase will apply to all credit unions with total assets greater than €10 million and will commence on 1 August 2013.



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The purpose of the Fitness and Probity regime for credit unions is to ensure that those individuals holding senior positions in credit unions are competent and capable, act honestly, ethically and with integrity and are financially sound, in line with the Fitness and Probity Standards for Credit Unions. In addition, the Fitness and Probity regime will help to improve governance standards in credit unions at board and management level and will complement the governance framework set out in the Credit Union and Co-operation with Overseas Regulators Act 2012 by requiring that credit unions ensure that individuals with positions of significant influence and control, that take up key board, board oversight and management positions, are fit and proper.

As referred to in the circular of 21 May 2013 on the upcoming Information Seminars, we are circulating this letter, together with the Fitness and Probity Regulations, Standards, Guidance, Individual Questionnaire and a Frequently Asked Questions document, by email to the primary contact in all credit unions.

These documents and further information on the Fitness and Probity regime for credit unions, including guidance and videos on completing and submitting an Individual Questionnaire, will be made available on the “Fitness and Probity – Credit Unions” section of the Central Bank website.

The Information Seminars, which are scheduled at locations nationwide from 2 to 12 July 2013, will include presentations on the requirements for credit unions arising from the introduction of the Fitness and Probity regime and provide an opportunity for credit unions to clarify any queries they may have regarding the implementation of the requirements. Registration for the Information Seminars, for those credit unions that have not already registered, remains open until 21 June 2013.

Yours faithfully,

Sharon Donnery

Registrar of Credit Unions