

FSCA INFORMATION REQUEST 2 OF 2020 (RF)
FINANCIAL SECTOR REGULATION ACT, 2017 (ACT NO. 9 OF 2017)
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON THE IMPACT OF THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC ON
CONTRIBUTIONS FOR RETIREMENT SAVINGS

15 May 2020

1. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The Financial Sector Conduct Authority (“the Authority”), under section 131 of the Financial Sector Regulation Act, 2017 (Act No. 9 of 2017) (“FSRA”), requests all funds to furnish information to the Authority by completing the requested information, as set out in Annexure A to this Notice.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Authority is cognisant of the unprecedented challenges and potential financial distress that the Covid-19 pandemic have presented to employers and employees that are not receiving any income, or only receiving partial income thereby affecting deductions and/or contributions for retirement savings.
- 2.2 FSCA Communication 11 of 2020, drew boards of funds’ attention to apply the relevant fund rules which can be considered to alleviate the challenges that employers and employees might be facing pursuant to the Covid-19 pandemic, or in alternative, where the existing fund rules do not provide for alleviation of such challenges, to urgently register the necessary rules. Such rules should, as appropriate, make provision for, amongst others the following circumstances:
- (a) temporary absence from work (with or without pay);
 - (b) a break in service or employment period (in instances where employees are not working);
 - (c) postponement of contribution payments; and/or
 - (d) a reduction of pensionable service (in respect of employees who are working reduced hours).
- 2.3 The Authority, as part of its supervisory approach, aims to determine the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic is having on financial distressed employers and employees and the related impact on retirement savings.

3. FORMAT OF INFORMATION REQUESTED AND TIMELINE FOR SUBMISSION

All registered funds must complete the survey in Annexure A to this information request and submit it via e-mail to the Authority at contributionrelief@fsca.co.za by not later than **15 June 2020**.

4. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REQUEST

A failure to provide the specified information by or within the timeframe specified constitutes an offence under section 267 of the FSRA.

This Information Request is available on the FSCA's website (www.fsca.co.za) under Regulatory Frameworks < Notices < Retirement Funds.

4. CONTACT

For more information regarding this Information Request please send an e-mail to Anton van Graan at anton.vangraan@fsca.co.za

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Olano Makhubela', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**OLANO MAKHUBELA
FOR THE FINANCIAL SECTOR CONDUCT AUTHORITY**