# Guidance – Credit Institutions REQ

In terms of the Regulation 19 of the PMLFTR, the Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit ("FIAU") can require subject persons to submit periodical reports on the AML/CFT measures, policies, procedures and controls they are implementing. This is being done through the annual Risk Evaluation Questionnaire ("REQ"). Unless otherwise stated, all subject persons, including those that were licensed in 2019 and are still licensed as of 28 February 2020, are bound to complete and submit the REQ through the CASPAR system by the deadline communicated to subject persons by the FIAU against payment of the applicable administrative fee. Failure to do so may result in the imposition of administrative sanctions by the FIAU.

This document clarifies the interpretation of specific questions and provides more information on the data being requested in particular sections within the REQ. Please go through this document prior to the completion and submission of the REQ. Subject Persons are invited to call the FIAU at any time during office hours on 21231333 or send an e-mail to: caspar@fiumalta.org

This REQ covers the period 01 January 2019 to 31 December 2019. Reference to prior calendar year throughouth the REQ should be taken to refer to 01 January 2019 to 31 December 2019.

Subject persons are required to complete the questionnaire in respect of the activity that falls within the definition of "relevant activity" and "relevant financial business" in accordance with Regulation 2 (1) of the PMLFTR.

Various questions in this REQ have also been applied across other different sectors. As a result, generic terminology such as "you / your entity" and "entity" has been applied and should therefore be taken to refer to the subject person completing this REQ.

Unless otherwise stated, reference to monitoring system throughout the REQ should be interpreted to refer to both manual and automated systems.

#### Abbreviations

Anti Money Laundering / Combatting the Funding of Terrorism
Beneficial owner
Business Risk Assessment
Compliance and Supervision Platform for Assessing Risk
Customer Due Diligence
Customer Risk Assessment
European Central Bank
Enhanced Due Diligence
European Economic Area
European Union
Financial Action Task Force
Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit
Full-time equivalent
International Bank Account Number
The Implementing Procedures issued in terms of Regulation 17 of the Prevention of
Money Laundering and Funding of Terrorism Regulations (PMLFTR)
Malta Financial Services Authority
Money Laundering / Funding of Terrorism
Money Laundering Reporting Officer
Money or Value Transfer Services
National Risk Assessment
Political Exposed Person
Subsidiary Legislation 373.01 Prevention of Money Laundering and Funding of Terrorism
Regulations
Simplified due diligence
Supranational Risk Assessment
Subject person
Suspicious transactions report
Ultimate beneficial owner

### FAQs

10 I I I	
If a subject person was	Subject persons do not need to register again and can use the same credentials
previously registered in	
CASPAR, should the subject	
person register again or can	
the previous credentials be	
used?	
I am the MLRO of an entity	Once the appointment of the MLROs is duly approved by the relevant supervisory
that obtained its licensed in 2020. What should we do now?	authority, where applicable, the appointment and any subsequent changes thereto must be notified to the FIAU through CASPAR. The MLRO should register on CASPAR and create a Subject Person. Guidance on the registration process is available on the FIAU website. The first REQ in this case will be due in 2021 and will cover the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020.
If there was a change in	Yes, the current MLRO has to submit the REQ.
MLRO in 2020, is it correct to	
assume that the current	
MLRO has to submit the REQ	
for 2019?	
If the MLRO resigned some	The REQ can only be submitted by the MLRO.
time ago and an interim	
MLRO has been appointed	
quite recently, can the	
designated employee submit	
REQ instead?	
Does a REQ need to be	The 2020 REQ covers the operating period January – December 2019, therefore subject
completed even if operations	
have just started?	Subject persons who do not require to be licensed have to complete the REQ depending on the day when they commenced operations. Registration on CASPAR is compulsory.
Does an entity which was	As long as the entity is still licensed, it is still required to submit the REQ for the year
liquidated in 2019 or is	2020.
currently in the process of	
liquidation need to complete	
and submit a REQ?	
The activity that I / my entity undertakes cuts across various REQs. Which REQ	The CASPAR System will amalgamate questions covering all the licences / services offered by the subject person into one REQ. Questions that apply equally will need to be answered once while questions that are product and customer based will be asked per
should I complete?	type of license / service offered.
-	Yes, each subject person has to complete a separate REQ and provide information that is
be completed for different	specific to that subject person. Even if entities form part of the same group and controls
entities?	may be the same, a separate REQ has to be completed and the inherent risk questions
	have to be completed to cover for the specific risk exposures of that subject person.
How should subject persons	All questions requiring the subject person to give monetary values require an answer in
answer questions that	Euro. The rate of conversion that has to be utilised depends on the type of question that
require a monetary value?	is being answered. If the value requested is the value at year end, then the subject person should use the last official exchange rate available for the year under review. On
	the other hand, where the value represents the sum total of a number of transactions which took place during the year, the subject person may either utilise the official daily exchange rate or in the absence thereof the official monthly / annual average exchange
	rates.

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What is the difference between the "Not Available" and the "Not Applicable" answer options provided?	The "Not Applicable" option should only be selected in those instances where the question does not apply to the subject person answering the REQ, such as where the subject person does not offer a specific product / service or where the subject person may have only recently commenced operations. If however a Subject Person does provide the service / product but registered no activity in the prior calendar year, then
	the respondent should input a '0' value.
	The "Not Applicable" option may also be availed of where the main question upon which all subsequent questions depend was answered in the negative.
	The "Not Available" option should only be selected in those instances where the subject person cannot reply to the question as it does not have the required or sufficient information at its disposal.
When the question requires an answer in numbers, currency or percentages,	Inputting "0" means that the question applies to the subject person, however the subject person had nothing to report.
what is the difference between inputting "0", and selecting the 'not applicable' or 'not available 'option?	The 'Not Applicable' option should only be selected in instances where the question does not apply to the subject person answering the REQ such as where a product is not offered or the subject person has only recently commenced operations. The 'Not Applicable' option can also be availed of where the main question upon which all subsequent questions depend was answered in the negative.
	The 'Not Available' option should be selected in those instances where the question applies to the subject person, however the entity does not have sufficient information at its disposal to answer the said question.
	When a number/percentage is required to be input and the 'Not Applicable' option is not available, a '0' value should be input.
	Example: "What percentage of total customers are resident or otherwise incorporated or their principal place of business is in a non-EU / EEA jurisdiction?"
	- Subject persons who do not accept customers from non-EU / EEA jurisdiction, should select "Not Applicable";
	- Subject persons who accept customers from non-EU / EEA jurisdictions, however did not have any customers from such jurisdiction as at the end of the prior calendar year, should input "0";
Why is there a reference to	- Subject persons who have customers from the mentioned jurisdictions, but the requested information may not be extracted, should choose the "Not Available".
Why is there a reference to the Basel Index in the REQs?	The 2019 REQ required subject persons to make their own determination to identify high risk jurisdictions when answering related questions. This introduced an element of subjectivity that undermined the ability of the FIAU to compare data. The FIAU included the reference to the Basel Index, together with other lists, to reduce this element of subjectivity.
	Subject persons should however note that reference to the Basel Index is only being made for the purposes of this exercise and should not to be considered to have any form of official endorsement by the FIAU. Subject persons are still required to make their own informed and autonomous decision as which jurisdictions represent a given level of risk. While they can make use of the Basel Index to inform their judgement, they are not to automatically rely thereon.
In light of Brexit how should the UK be treated?	Subject persons are expected to make use of the public version of the Basel Index. During the year under review (2019), the United Kingdom was still considered to be a member state of the European Union and therefore should be treated as such when completing the REQ.

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Should all questions involving	
customers be taken to also	customers should only be taken to refer to the person or entity (excluding the BOs of the
include beneficial owners?	legal person) to whom the subject person provides the service.
Where a customer has both a	Should the service be offered to both the holding and the trading company, these should
holding and trading company	be regarded as two separate legal entities for which you are providing the service;
should these be treated as	therefore the total number of customers is two. If they form part of the same group but
one customer?	the Subject Person is offering the service to only one of the two, the customer in this
	case is one.
Where a question refers /	The definition of subsidiary shall be construed to have the same meaning as referred to
relates to subsidiaries,	in the entities Act. Only entities that have the same ownership and share a common
should we include all entities	parent should be included. Simply having common ownership does not make a company
with common ownership?	a subsidiary, a common parent company is required.
	Where the REQ makes reference to a subsidiary of the subject person, only those
	subsidiaries that undertake a relevant activity / relevant financial business, should be
	taken into consideration in the subject person's response to the question.
I am a sole practitioner /	The term 'employees' should not only refer to individuals who have a contract of
MLRO of a legal entity with	employment with the subject person but should be interpreted to also include
no registered employees.	individuals who are engaged by the subject person to carry out aspects of its business
How should I answer all	involving relevant activity or relevant financial business.
employee-related questions	с , ,
in the REQ?	Subject to the above, all questions related to employees should be marked as 'Not
	Applicable'.
During the prior calendar	Subject persons had an obligation to have a BRA with effect from January 2018.
year (2019), the subject	
person terminated all its	Where the subject person has already provided a copy of its Business Risk Assessment
customer relationships and is	
in the process of winding up	changes thereto are required, the subject person is not required to upload another copy
its business activity. Should	of the BRA. In this case the subject person will be required to upload a signed declaration
the BRA be marked as Not	stating that following the review of the BRA, no updates were required since the BRA still
Applicable?	covered all the ML / FT risks to which the subject person is exposed to. The signed
	declaration may be an extract from the Board minutes certified by the company secretary or in the case of sole practitioners a signed declaration by the MLRO.
If an engaged agent met the	Yes, this is considered as a face-to-face relationship
client face-to-face, but not	
the management of the	
entity directly, would this be	
considered as face-to-face	
relationship?	
Should a subject person be	In line with the IP Section 3.2.1, subject persons are required to consider factors that can
aware of whether a BO of a	lead to the customer being considered as presenting a higher risk of ML / FT and this
customer benefited from IIP	includes situations where the customer has applied for, or is benefitting from, residence
citizenship?	rights.
When screening for	Sanction screening should be carried out on customers, BOs and agents.
customers who have been	
convicted of a criminal	
offence that could have	
potentially generated	
proceeds, should directors be screened?	
To what extent can adverse	Not each and every adverse article found online should result in the increase of the
media reports influence the	subject person's risk classification. Adverse information should first be analysed before
classification of a client as	any changes to the risk classification is made.
high risk?	

Is the internal audit function         Regulation S(3)(d) of the PMLFTR provides that "every subject person shall implement, where appropriate with regard to the size and nature of the business, an independent audit a function to test the internal measures, policies, controls and procedures". The audit and the creation of an internal audit function, since it is possible for the subject person to provide these services?           Does a business risk assessment by an independent firm cover the audit or independent testing is necessary to test the effective implementation of one's policies, controls, and measures.           Does a business risk assessment by an independent firm cover the internal audit or independent testing is necessary to test the effective implementation of one's policies, controls, and measures.           Through the carrying out of a business risk assessment one obtains an understanding of the risk that affect operations and the measures to manage such risk. On the contrary the internal audit or independent testing, in the context of the requirements of the PMLFTR, assesses the adequacy of the measures (controls) the subject person put in place to AUML/CFT training of employees, which indicates that awareness and training shall be provided to employees whose dutes indicates that awareness and training shall be provided to employees whose dutes indicates that awareness and training shall be provided to employees whose dutes indicates that awareness are training shall be provided to employees. The FAU, relevant supervisory authorities or law enforcement agencies are entitled to demand the records; include the handling of ethore relevant financial business or relevant activity. It is safe to undreg should accumate be kept in order in the calculation of this percentage?           For how long should cocomly with FIAU?         As per Regulation 13(2) of		
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Would encashment of	Yes, such an encashment would be considered as an occasional transaction.
cheques over € 15,000 where	
the payee is a non-account	
holder qualify as an	
occasional transaction?	
When providing the number	When providing the number of high risk clients, the subject person should only take into
of high risk clients, should	consideration the inherent risk.
the answer take into	
consideration the inherent	
risk or the residual risk	
following controls?	
A Maltese local client	The fact that a customer is operating a cash intensive business should only be one of the
operates a cash-intensive	factors which are considered when carrying out of the customer risk assessment. Other
supermarket with an annual	risk factors should also be taken into consideration, such as, the geographical risk and
turnover of €100,000 and a	the interface risk.
residual profit of €20,000.	
Should this be considered as	
high risk business?	
The subject person's client is a corporate client, having one of its director classified as a PEP. Should be this corporate client be considered as a PEP for REQ purposes?	For the purposes of filling in the REQ, if one of the corporate client's director is a PEP, then the corporate client is not to be considered as a PEP as the customer in this case is the corporate customer. The concept of a PEP can only be applied to natural persons. In the event that the director in question acted as an agent during the application process, such risk exposure should be taken into consideration during the carrying out of the customer risk assessment.
If one PEP has multiple	A PEP is always a natural person and therefore the number to be entered in this case
entities and the subject	should be one.
persons services these	silouid be one.
entities, what is the correct	
number of PEPs in this case?	
Which Government, Parastatal entities, Local Council office holders or employees fall under definition of a PEP?	Regulation 2(1) of the PMLFTR defines a PEP as a natural person who is or has been entrusted with a prominent public function, other than middle ranking or more junior officials. The PMLFTR does not define what constitutes a "prominent public function" since they may vary depending on a number of factors, such as the type, size, budget, powers and responsibilities associated with a particular public function and the organisational framework of the government or international organisation concerned, as the specific jurisdiction concerned. The PMLFTR do provide a non-exhaustive list of public functions that are considered to be prominent public functions and would therefore render the holder thereof a PEP. This list is not exhaustive and subject persons are required to assess on a case by case basis whether a particular public function presents characteristics that would fall to be considered as a prominent public function in terms of the PMLFTR and the Implementing Procedures.
	<ul> <li>The prominent public functions which would render the holder a PEP include the following:</li> <li>Heads of state, heads of government, ministers, deputy or assistant ministers, and parliamentary secretaries</li> <li>Members of the Parliament or similar legislative bodies including the Speakers and all members of the House of Representatives</li> <li>Members of the governing bodies of political parties which are those parties represented in the House of Representatives. However, this definition does not include regional or town representatives.</li> </ul>

When does a person cease to	The Revised Implementing Procedures issued in 2019 provide that the application of EDD
be classified as a PEP?	to PEPs, their family members and close associates is mandatory as long as a PEP
	remains entrusted with a prominent public function, and for at least, a subsequent 12-
	month period from when he/she ceases to be so entrusted.
Basel index: there are various	The Basel Index was deemed to be the most frequently used. Whereas other indexes are
country risk databases of	also considered as reputable, the BASEL index was chosen purely for consistency
equal reliability. Is there a	patterns across the REQ.
reason reference is only	
made to the Basel Index in	
the REQ?	
Under the Geography section	If you / your entity has for example 50 customers that are legal entities, each having 2
of the REQ, there is a part	UBOs, you / your entity will have a total of 100 UBOs. So percentages should reflect the
relating to the residence of	total number of UBOs and not the total number of customers, irrespective of whether
beneficial owners. How	they are UBO of the same entity or otherwise.
should one report cases	
where beneficial owners of	Therefore if for example out of the 100 UBOs, 50 are resident in Malta, 20 resident in an
"legal persons" are from	EU/EEA jurisdiction, 30 are resident in a non-EU/non-EEA. The following questions
more than one jurisdiction?	should be answered as follows:
	> What percentage of customer BOs are resident in Malta? - 50%
	> What percentage of customer BOs are foreign and are resident in an EU or EEA
	jurisdiction outside Malta? - 20%
	> What percentage of customer BOs are foreign and are resident in a non-EU or non-EEA
	jurisdiction outside Malta? - 30%
Section - Geography -	The value of transactions reported should include both incoming and outgoing
Transactions / Payments -	payments. Subject persons should not net off the value of outgoing payments from the
are subject persons required	value of the incoming payments. Therefore if total incoming payments amounted to
to report the net value of	€100m and total outgoing payments amounted to €95m, the subject person should
transactions (inflows less	report €195m in their reply. Payments should include any fees, bank charges and interest
outflows)?	payments.
An entity makes use of third	Where a subject person makes use of third party payment service providers to make
party payment service	payments to its customers, it should count both the outward and the inward payments
providers to transfer money	when calculating the number of transactions. For example, a subject person sends one
to its' customers. How are	bulk payment to a payment service provider (PSP), which then makes 100 payments to
these reported in the	the bank's customers. For the purpose of calculating the number of transactions, the
'Transactions / Payments'	subject person should count one outward payment transaction and 100 incoming
section for the purpose of	payment transactions.
this REQ?	

#### Defintions

Active customers	Active customers refers to those customers with whom the entity has a business relationship or customers with whom the entity carried out an occasional transaction in the prior calendar year.
Basel Index	Reference made to the Basel Index is only included for the purpose of this exercise and should not be taken or construed as being an exhaustive list of jurisdictions considered as non reputable or high risk in line with their obligations under the relevant AML / CFT obligations. Subject persons are obliged to carry out the necessary jurisdiction risk assessments to understand the risk posed by such jurisdictions.
	The jurisdictions in the Basel Index can be found through the following link:
	https://www.baselgovernance.org/sites/default/files/2019- 08/Basel%20AML%20Index%202019.pdf
Beneficial owner / ultimate beneficial owner	The interpretation of Beneficial Owners should be applied in accordance with the PMLFTR and the guidance in the IPs.
	Regulation 2(1) of the PMLFTR defines a beneficial owner as: a) any natural person or persons who ultimately owns or controls the customer; and / or b) the natural person or persons on whose behalf a transaction or activity is being conducted.
	With respect to trusts reference to beneficial owner should extend to settlor / protector / trustee / beneficiaries / any other natural person actually exercising effective control over the trust.
Correspondent Relationship /	Correspondent relationship means:
Correspondent Activity	(a) the provision of banking services by one bank as the correspondent to another bank as the respondent, including providing a current or other liability account and related services, such as cash management, international funds transfers, cheque clearing, payable-through accounts and foreign exchange services;
	(b) the relationship between and among entities carrying out relevant financial business and activities equivalent thereto, including where similar services to those under paragraph (a) are provided by a correspondent entity to a respondent entity, and including relationships established for securities transactions or funds transfers.
Customers	Customer is defined as natural person or a legal person / entity with whom the subject person has a business relationship or for whom the subject person carried out an occasional transaction. In this context, customers refers to active customers as at the end of the prior calendar year.
	Reference to customers is made in respect of those clients that were provided with a relevant activity or relevant financial business by the subject person.
Domestic incoming payments	
Domestic outgoing payments	"Domestic outgoing payments" refers to instances when the entity send payments to payment accounts in Malta.

Employees / relevant staff	<ul> <li>"Relevant staff" refers to employees and other company officials whose duties include the handling of either relevant financial business or relevant activity (as defined in the PMLFTR), irrespective of their level of seniority. This includes but is not limited to: <ul> <li>(a) directors;</li> <li>(b) senior management;</li> <li>(c) the MLRO and designated employee(s);</li> <li>(d) compliance staff; and</li> <li>(e) all members of staff involved in the activities of the subject person that fall within the definition of 'relevant financial business' and 'relevant activity'.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The term 'employees' should not only refer to individuals who have a contract of employment with the subject person but should be interpreted to also include individuals who are engaged by the subject person to carry out aspects of its business involving relevant activity or relevant financial business (such as temporary or contract staff).</li> </ul>
EU List identifying high risk 3rd countries with strategic deficiencies	The jurisdictions in the EU list identifying high risk 3rd countries with strategic deficiencies can be found through the following link:
	https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/criminal-justice/anti- money-laundering-and-counter-terrorist-financing/eu-policy-high-risk-third- countries en#evolutionoftheeulistonhighriskthirdcountries
EU List of Non-Cooperative Jurisdictions for Tax Purposes	The EU list of Non-Cooperative Jurisdictions is a list that includes non-EU countries or territories that failed make sufficient commitments in response to EU concerns in terms of tax good governance. The list can be found in the following link: spx <a href="https://cfr.gov.mt/en/inlandrevenue/tcu/Pages/EU-List-of-non-cooperative-jurisdictions.a">https://cfr.gov.mt/en/inlandrevenue/tcu/Pages/EU-List-of-non-cooperative-jurisdictions.a</a>
Face-to-face	Face-to-face basis refers to the cases when the customer is physically present for verification purposes. Where a subject person makes use of video conferencing tools to onboard customers in accordance with the guidance provided in the IPs to onboard customers, these should be considered to have been onboarded on a face-to-face basis.
FATF Lists	The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) identifies jurisdictions with strategic deficiencies in their frameworks to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation. It periodically publishes lists with high risk jurisdictions subject (black list) to a call for action and jurisdictions with strategic deficiencies (grey list). The jurisdictions in the FATF lists can be found through the following link: <u>https://fiumalta.org/FATF</u>
High risk industries	Subject persons are required to define their own list of high risk industries and products. For the purpose of responding to this question, subject persons should consider high risk industries to include: productions / trade in war related weapons, productions / trade in radioactive materials, mining, oil and gas, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, and adult entertainment.
Dual use products	In accordance with SL 365.12, dual-use items refers to any used or unused items, including software and technology, which can be used for both civil and military purposes, and including all goods which can be used for both non-explosive uses and for assisting in any way in the manufacture of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.
Inherent risk	Inherent risk is the risk a subject person is exposed to prior to adopting and applying any mitigating measures, policies, controls and procedures. Likelihood and impact will lead to the determination of the level of inherent risk a subject person is exposed to.

Introducer	The term introducer refers to an individual / entity that introduces a customer/s to a
	subject person. The introducer does not represent or act on behalf of the customer. The relationship between an introducer and the subject person may or may not be governed
	by an agreement. The subject person may remunerate (e.g. commission / finders fee) for their service.
	An official or an employee of the subject person is not an introducer. Furthermore,
	group entities that introduce customers to other entities within the same group are not to be considered as introducers.
Non-face-to-face	Non-face-to-face refers to the cases when the customer (or its agent) was not physically
	present for verification purposes. It excludes those customers that were onboarded by the subject person through the use of video conferencing tools in accordance with the guidance provided in the IPs.
Non-retail banking	Non-retail banking refers to all customers other than those who are provided with retail banking services.
Occasional transaction	The PMLFTR defines an occasional transaction as any transaction or service carried out
	or provided by a subject person for his / her customer, other than a transaction or service carried out or provided within a business relationship, and includes, but is not limited to the following.
	limited to, the following: a) a transaction amounting to €15,000 or more carried out in a single operation or in several operations that appear to be linked;
	b) a transfer of funds, as defined under Regulation (EU) 2015/847 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2015 which exceeds €1,000 in a single operation or in several operations that appears to be linked;
	<li>c) a transaction in cash amounting to €10,000 or more, carried out by a natural person or legal person trading in goods in a single operation or in several operations that appear to be linked;</li>
	d) a transaction amounting to €2,000 or more, carried out by gaming or casino licensees in a single operation or in several operations that appear to be linked;
	e) the provision of tax advice; and f) the formation of a company, trust, foundation or a similar structure.
	[some of the above may also be carried out in the context of a business relationship]
Offshore	The term offshore refers to jurisdictions that have distinctive characteristics such as low
	or zero taxation, tax secrecy and possibly lack of transparency. You are kindly requested to refer to the EU list of Non-Cooperative Jurisdictions for Tax Purposes. The list can be found in the following link:
	https://cfr.gov.mt/en/inlandrevenue/tcu/Pages/EU-List-of-non-cooperative- jurisdictions.aspx
Onboarding	"Onboarding" refers to the process through which a business relationship is established or an occasional transaction is carried out.
Outsourcing	Outsourcing refers to outsourced activities directly relating to the entity's relevant activity / relevant financial business and in the connection with its AML/CFT obligations. Chapter 6 - Outsourcing of the IP provides guidance to subject persons on what activities constitute outsourcing, the extent of outsourcing allowed and the conditions to which outsourcing should be subject.
	Subject persons whose AML / CFT obligations are, in whole or in part, undertaken by an entity forming part of its group should, irrespective of the legal and commercial arrangements consider this to be an outsourced operation.

PEP measures	Regulation 11 (5) of the PMLFTR states that: Subject persons shall ensure that the risk management procedures maintained in accordance with Regulation 5(5)(a) are conducive to determine whether a customer or a beneficial owner is a politically exposed person, and when undertaking occasional transactions for, or establishing or continuing business relationships with politically exposed persons shall:
	<ul> <li>(a) require the approval of senior management;</li> <li>(b) take adequate measures to establish the source of wealth and source of funds; and</li> <li>(c) conduct enhanced ongoing monitoring of such business relationships.</li> </ul>
Politically Exposed Person	The definition of a PEP should be construed in accordance with the PMLFTR and the guidance in the IPs
	Regulation 2(1) of the PMLFTR defines a PEP as a natural person who is or has been entrusted with a prominent public function, other than middle ranking or more junior officials. The PMLFTR provide a non-exhaustive list of public functions that are considered to be prominent public functions and would therefore render the holder thereof a PEP.
	Regulation 11(8) of the PMLFTR defines the term "family members" as including: (i) the spouse, or a person considered to be equivalent to a spouse; (ii) the children and their spouses, or persons considered to be equivalent to a spouse; and (iii) the parents.
	The list of "family members" is not an exhaustive list and therefore subject persons should consider whether other family relationships in specific circumstances may be considered to be similar to those under the indicative list in the PMLFTR.
	Regulation 11(8) also defines the term "close associates" as: (i) a natural person known to have joint beneficial ownership of a body corporate or any other form of legal arrangement, or any other close business relations, with that politically exposed person;
	(ii) a natural person who has sole beneficial ownership of a body corporate or any other form of legal arrangement that is known to have been established for the benefit of that politically exposed person.
Relevant activity / Relevant financial business	Relevant activity and relevant financial business carry the same meaning as defined in Regulation 2 $(1)$ of the PMLFTR .
Reliance on other subject persons	The PMLFTR permit subject persons to rely on the CDD measures carried out by other subject persons or by certain other third parties. A reliance arrangement can be set up between entities when those entities are servicing the same customer, or when that same customer is in contact with multiple entities to a transaction, with each entity being under a legal obligation to carry out CDD measures on the customer. Subject persons should take adequate steps to ensure that, on request, the entity relied on immediately forwards relevant copies of the identification and verification documents on the CDD measures undertaken. In this regard, subject persons should have a written formal agreement with the entity, signed by both parties, that would regulate the
Residence	procedures and conditions on these requests to ensure that the data is made available immediately. "Residence" refers to the customer's principal country of residence or for a legal entity
	the jurisdiction where it is incorporated or has its principal place of business. With respect to trusts and similar legal arrangement the country of residence should be the jurisdiction of the laws governing the trusts and / or similar legal arrangement.

Residual risk	Residual risk is the level of risk left after applying the mitigating measures, policies, controls and procedures to the level of inherent risk identified. Level of inherent Risk – Mitigating Measures = Level of Residual Risk
Retail banking	"Retail banking" should be construed to refer to the activity where a credit institution provides products and services to natural persons for personal use. Examples which fall within this definition include deposit accounts, credit and savings products.
Senior management	The definition of "senior management" will depend on the type of body corporate or organisation setup of the entity. It intends to capture those individual(s): (a) who are responsible for taking strategic decisions that fundamentally effect the business operations or general direction of that entity; and (b) who exercise executive control over the daily or regular affairs of the entity through a senior management position.
	Paragraph (b) includes individuals at C-level who have executive functions or are otherwise responsible for the management of the entity, such as executive directors, chief executive officers (CEOs) and chief financial officers (CFOs), and who require the approval, prior to appointment, of the MFSA or MGA, respectively.
Shell company	A shell company is an incorporated company with no independent operations, significant assets, ongoing business activities or employees.
Subsidiary entity	The definition of subsidiary shall be construed to mean the same as explained in the Companies Act. Companies that have the same ownership and share a common parent should be included within the definition of a subsidiary. On the other hand, entities simply having common ownership do not constitute a subsidiary, since there is no common parent entity.
	Where the REQ makes reference to a subsidiary of a subject person, only those subsidiaries that undertake a relevant activity / relevant financial business should be taken into consideration.
Transactions / Payments	The Transactions / Payments section in the REQ refers to the source from where the payment transactions originate.
Virtual IBAN	A credit institution or payment service provider that offers accounts identifiable by means of a real IBAN can allocate to the holder of any such account one or more virtual IBANs. Virtual IBANs are similar in structure to real IBANs and can be used for the inward transfer of funds which are ultimately rerouted and end in the account with which the Virtual IBAN is linked.

## Specific Guidance

No.	Question	Guidance
1.05	If your entity is a subsidiary of a foreign traded company or a subsidiary of a privately held foreign company, is the parent company located in EU / EEA jurisdictions or non-EU / EEA jurisdictions?	If the entity is directly controlled by a natural person (ultimate beneficial owner) then the "Not Applicable" option should be selected.
1.06	Please indicate total annual turnover according to the latest available audited financial statements and / or tax declaration.	Respondents are required to indicate turnover on the basis of the latest available financial statements or submitted tax return. Where the latest available audited financial statements or submitted tax return does not correspond to the prior calendar year, subject persons are required to provided the required information from the latest available financial statement or submitted tax return available. In those instances where the subject person's financial statements are not reported in Euro, the reported turnover in foreign currency amount should be translated into Euro at the average annual exchange rate for the given accounting reference period as published by the European Central Bank. Furthermore, where the 2019 financial statements have not yet been audited or the 2019 tax declaration has not yet been submitted, subject persons are expected to use the latest available audited financial statements or tax declaration. Annual average exchange rates may be accessed through the following link: https://www.centralbankmalta.org/average
		exchange-rates
1.08	Please indicate the total number of employees (including partners, executive directors, associates and staff), expressed in full time equivalents ("FTEs"), working for you / your entity as at the end of the prior calendar year.	Employment in full-time equivalent ("FTE") is a conversion method used to measure the number of employees according to the number of hours worked. When using FTE, a full-time employee working a 40 hour week is equivalent to 1, whereas a person who works 20 hours per week is equivalent to 0.5. Self employed should be included in the FTEs calculation. How is this different from the below? Employees should include persons who are directly
		employed by subject persons including directors and employees employed within the same group but working directly for the SP or who are self-employed persons but working for the SP.
1.09	How many years experience in this industry do you / does the principal(s) and / or partners and / or director(s) and / or senior management of your entity have?	The persons to be taken into consideration for the purpose of this question, must have either an employment relationship with the entity or are serving on the governing body of the entity (through employment), independently of whether they have an executive or non-executive role.

No.	Question	Guidance
1.16	Please list all persons (name and surname) who are considered as your entity's beneficial owners as defined in the PMLFTR.	Subject persons are only required to provide the requested information for customers that are natural persons or legal arrangements. Regulation 2(1) of the PMLFTR defines a beneficial owner as:
		(a) any natural person or persons who ultimately owns or controls the customer; and/or (b) the natural person or persons on whose behalf a transaction or activity is being conducted. A body corporate, body of persons, trust or other legal arrangement can never qualify as a beneficial owner. The beneficial owner, when there is one, must always be a natural person.
		In case of a publicly listed entity, please specify the name of the stock exchange where the company is listed e.g.: Malta Stock Exchange.
1.18	Does your entity have nominee shareholders in its ownership structure?	Nominee shareholding refers to those instances where the shares of an entity are held by a person for the benefit of another person (beneficial owner). A nominee shareholder may be an individual or a body corporate.
		In replying to this question, subject persons are required to consider their whole ownership structure irrespective of country of incorporation or jurisdiction.
1.21	Has your entity undergone significant changes in its management and control structure during the prior calendar year?	"Management and control structure" refers to those bodies or individuals within the entity that either set the general direction of the entity in the pursuance of its activities (e.g. Board of Directors, Partners' Committee etc.) or that manage the entity's activities on a day-to-day basis (C-level e.g. Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Managing Partners etc.) and who require the approval, prior to appointment, of the MFSA or MGA, respectively. Control structures refer to the entity's governance structures and their related setup and should exclude control structures established for the day-to-day operations of the entity.
		"Significant changes in its management and control structure" means any change to the governing body or to the management of the entity. For licensed subject persons (including CSP and Trustees) change to governing body or management refers to those positions that require prior approval and / or notification of the Malta Financial Services Authority or the Malta Gaming Authority respectively.

No.	Question	Guidance
2.05	How many staff members, expressed as FTEs, are part of the AML / CFT team (if one exists)?	"AML / CFT team" refers to individual/s who are part of an organised setup within the entity whose responsibilities include the assistance / execution, in part or in whole, of the entity's obligations arising from the PMLFTR and IPs and the entity's policies and procedures.
		Employment in full-time equivalent is a conversion method used to measure the number of employees according to the number of hours worked. When using FTE a full-time employee working a 40 hour week is equivalent to 1, whereas a person who works 20 hours per week is equivalent to 0.5. Self employed should be included in the FTEs calculation. The reported number should exclude the MLRO.
2.06	Is any of the AML / CFT team staff responsible for other roles and responsibilities not	"AML / CFT team" refers to the staff members other than the MLRO.
	attributable to AML / CFT (e.g. front office, back office, etc.)?	"Roles and responsibilities" relate to those responsibilities which are part of the first line of defence in the three lines of defence model. This may include front office, back office responsibilities but excludes compliance and risk management roles.
2.12	Have you made use of any of the exceptions provided in Section 5.1.2 of the Implementing Procedures - Part I providing for the Money Laundering Reporting Officer to be carried out by someone other than one of your officers?	The subject person is expected to complete this question where the individual appointed as Money Laundering Reporting Officer is an employee of a third party undertaking (including Group- wide MLROs).
3.05	Did the Business Risk Assessment conducted take into account the results of the	"NRA" refers to National Risk Assessment "SNRA" refer to Supranational Risk Assessment
4.03	SNRA and NRA? Please indicate, for all your customers where a business relationship is formed or, depending on the risk, only for a specific part of your	This question refers to information that may be collected, on a risk basis, by a subject person in order to understand the customer's business and strengthen its customer risk assessment.
	customers, whether you / your entity collects information on actual or expected activity (including cash flows) with respect to size, frequency and geographical distribution.	Geographical distribution refers to the jurisdictions where or through which the customer carries out its operations (customers, suppliers, place of management) and undertakes its financial activity (money flows).
4.04	Do policies and procedures specify hierarchical authorisation levels within your entity to, on a risk basis, accept a customer or approve a transaction?	The application of hierarchical authorisation levels refer to both customers accepted at on-boarding stage and resulting from changes in customer risk assessment throughout the business relationship.

No.	Question	Guidance
4.13	Where customer due diligence cannot be completed at the onboarding stage, do the policies and procedures require you / your entity to consider whether there is a need to file a STR with the FIAU and only proceed with the cancellation / termination of the business relationship once it is determined that there is no suspicion justifying the filing of a STR?	The IPs require subject persons to consider terminating the business relationship / the carrying out of an occasional transaction when CDD cannot be completed only after taking into consideration whether an STR needs to be filed. Section 4.7 of the IPs provides further guidance on subject persons' obligations on this matter.
4.15	Is your monitoring system able to detect the expiry of due diligence documentation and any conflicting information in relation to customer data?	For subject persons who only carry out occasional transactions, this question shall be answered to the extent that the information or documentation obtained prior to the carrying out of such transactions is conflicting with the information provided during the carrying out of the transaction. For example, the information provided by the customer indicates that he / she lives in Malta while the documentation made available states otherwise.
4.19	In the event that there are changes to your customer's business model, ownership structure or service offering, do you / does your entity review the existing customer risk assessment and, if necessary, update the said risk assessment?	Respondents who solely undertake occasional transactions should mark their reply to this question as 'Not Applicable'.
4.22	Do policies and procedures require your entity to obtain an understanding of high value / high risk transactions, as well as obtain related supporting documentation and revise the CRA, if required?	"CRA" refers to the Customer Risk Assessment. "High value" and "high risk" transactions should be defined by the entity and appropriately documented in the entity's policies and procedures.
5.01	Where business relationships are established, how frequently does your entity review and update the information held in the files on customers and BOs that are assessed as high risk (or higher)?	The obligation to review information held on customer files is restricted to those instance where a business relationship is formed.
5.02	Where business relationships are established, how frequently does your entity review and update the information held in the files on customers and BOs that are not assessed as high risk (or higher)?	The obligation to review information held on customer files is restricted to those instances where a business relationship is formed.

No.	Question	Guidance
5.03	Is your entity's process / system for monitoring transactions fully automated, partially automated or manual?	"Fully Automated" refers to relying on automated systems that require little or no human intervention. "Partially Automated" refers to relying on automated systems requiring human intervention regularly, whilst "Manual" refers to relying on control system data, manual / scheduled reports and intensive employee intervention. This question should be marked as 'not applicable' by those entities who solely undertake occasional transactions.
5.04	Does your monitoring system utilise any of these techniques to monitor customer activity?	"Rule-based criteria" refers to a set of pre-established rules that are applied in a system. The monitoring system will take a pre-defined action (flag, block etc.) on any transaction / activity that meets the criteria within the rule/s. "Profiling" refers to the process of construction and application of user profiles generated through the analysis of data. This typically relates to the use of algorithms or other mathematic techniques that allow for the discovery of patterns or correlation in large quantities of data. When these patterns or correlations are used to identify or represent persons they are referred to as profiles. The N/A option should be only selected by subject persons
5.05	How often are the criteria and rules utilised by the monitoring	who do not have business relationships but only occasional transactions. Respondents who solely undertake occasional transactions should mark their reply to this question as 'Not Applicable'.
5.07	Are there customer transactions that are not screened by the monitoring	Subject persons who only have occasional transactions and who do not have business relationships, should select the "Not Applicable" option in the response.
5.09	system? Does your entity have an expected transaction profile for every customer?	An expected transaction profile is created on the basis of information obtained at customer onboarding stage and throughout the business relationship in order to establish a profile of the expected activity for a particular customer. This question should be marked as 'not applicable' by those entities who solely undertake occasional transactions
5.14	Does your entity have systems in place to detect instances where services and / or products may be accessed by persons other than the customer?	An example of system controls that a subject person may have in place includes the identification of when a service / product is used from several IP addresses at the same time. The N/A option should be only selected by subject persons who do not have business relationships but only occasional transactions.

No.	Question	Guidance
5.15	How many alerts were generated by the monitoring system during the prior calendar year?	The number should reflect the total number of alerts that were raised by the system and resulted in an analysis / investigation by the subject person to be able to determine whether these should be cleared or whether they should be escalated further through the filing of an internal report. The N/A option should be only selected by subject persons
		who do not have business relationships but only occasional transactions.
5.17	Does the monitoring system in place identify linked transactions?	"Linked transactions" refers to a series of transactions by a customer, or they may be transactions that appear to be independent, but are in fact split into two or more transactions to avoid detection. This typically happens when a customer tries to avoid anti-money laundering controls by splitting transactions into several smaller amounts.
		The N/A option should be only selected by subject persons who do not have business relationships but only occasional transactions.
7.01	Have you / your entity, given the size and nature of its business, appointed an officer at management level to monitor the day to day implementation of its AML / CFT measures, policies, controls and procedures?	Where the subject person is a sole practitioner and the appointed officer is themselves, they may choose to select the option "No, MLRO has taken this role".
7.03	Have you / your entity, given the size and nature of its business, appointed an independent audit function to test its AML / CFT measures, policies, controls and procedures?	The PMLFTR requires subject persons to consider whether, given the size and nature of their business, the conduct of ongoing monitoring on one's own measures, policies, controls and procedures needs to be strengthened through: (a) the appointment of an officer at management level whose duties are to include monitoring of the day-to-day implementation of the measures, policies, controls and procedures adopted by the subject person; and (b) the implementation of an independent audit function to test the said internal measures, policies, controls and procedures from time to time.
		The latter need not necessarily result in the creation of an internal audit function, since it is possible for the subject person to engage an external consultant independent of the subject person to evaluate the adequacy of its internal controls, policies and procedures. Alternatively, the subject person may assign this task internally to a person other than the MLRO or anyone else involved in the implementation or operation of the subject person's AML / CFT compliance programme.

No.	Question	Guidance
8.04	From the internal reports raised in the prior calendar year, how many cases are still open?	An internal report is considered as still open where the MLRO has not yet made a determination as to whether an STR is to be filed with the FIAU or otherwise.
		The 'Not Applicable' answer is only to be used where the subject person replied '0' to the question: How many internal suspicious reports were raised during the prior calendar year?"
8.06	Were records of all "internal reports" raised during the prior calendar year and the analysis conducted thereon maintained by you / your entity?	The internal reporting procedures of a subject person should set out the steps to be followed when one of its employees knows or suspects that a person or a transaction is connected to ML / FT. The procedures should clearly state that when an employee has any such information, he / she is to report the matter to the MLRO without delay.
		Internal reports should be submitted in writing, preferably using a standard template, together with all relevant information and documentation available to the employee so as to assist the MLRO to determine how best to proceed.
		Following the receipt of an internal STR, the MLRO may conclude, for justifiable reasons that the report does not give rise to knowledge or suspicion of money laundering. In such cases, the MLRO should keep a copy of the internal STR together with the rationale of why the report did not warrant a submission to the FIAU. It is the MLRO's responsibility to consider internal reports of money laundering and decide if there is sufficient grounds for suspicion to file a suspicion transaction report ("STR").
8.09	How many requests for information from the Maltese authorities did you / your entity receive about any of your customers during the prior calendar year?	The term "Maltese authorities" refers to: Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit (FIAU), Malta Financial Services Authority (MFSA), Malta Gaming Authority (MGA), The Malta Police Force, Sanctions Monitoring Board and the Asset Recovery Bureau.
		Reference to customers is made with respect to current clients (active or inactive), customers who no longer have a business relationship with the entity and those for whom an occasional transaction was carried out.
9.04	Please provide the % of staff outside the AML / CFT unit that completed AML / CFT training throughout the prior calendar year.	Staff outside the ML / CFT unit refers to employees of the entity who undertake relevant activity / relevant financial business. Self-employed persons who principally work for the entity should all be included in your response.
9.08	Where tasks relating to AML / CFT compliance are outsourced (within or outside the Group), what % of the provider's staff directly servicing you / your entity, received training on AML / CFT throughout the prior year?	The term "group" refers to a parent undertaking and all its subsidiary undertakings. Subject persons whose AML / CFT obligations are, in whole or in part, undertaken by an entity forming part of its group should, irrespective of the legal and commercial arrangements in place, also respond to this question.

Do you / your entity have	
	Chapter 9 – Recordkeeping Procedures of the IPs states that
policies and procedures in place	subject persons must have procedures in place and apply the
providing for compliance with	same, so as to ensure that the following records are
the record keeping obligations	maintained:
arising from the PMLFTR?	a) records of the actions taken to adopt and implement the
	risk-based approach;
	b) the CDD information and documents obtained for
	identification and verification of identity purposes;
	c) records containing details relating to the business
	relationship that is formed and all transactions carried out in
	the course of a business relationship or an occasional
	transaction;
	Subject persons should also retain the following records
	required as evidence of compliance with the PMLFTR and for
	statistical purposes:
	a) internal reports made to the MLRO;
	b) a record of any written determinations made by the
	MLRO and the designated employee, including the reasons
	for not filing an STR with the FIAU;
	c) STRs made by the subject person to the FIAU and any
	follow-up submissions made in connection thereto;
	d) a record of AML / CFT training attended by sole
	practitioners / provided to employees;
	e) records of conduct certificates or other documentation
	obtained in carrying out employee screening;
	f) records of any outsourcing agreements entered into and
	other documentation that provides evidence of the subject
	person's adherence to its obligations under Chapter 6 of
	these Implementing Procedures, Part I;
	g) records of any reliance agreements entered into and of
	any related assessments undertaken on the other subject
	person or third party in terms; and
	h) other important records, including: any reports by the
	MLRO, records of consideration of those reports made to
	senior management and of any action taken as a
	consequence thereof, records of any internal audit reports
	or assessments dealing with AML / CFT issues, and any other
	records that are necessary to demonstrate compliance with
	the obligations under the PMLA, the PMLFTR and any
	Implementing Procedures.
	Subject persons are required to maintain records for a
	period of 5 years, however in specific cases subject persons
	may be requested to retain their records for longer periods.
	The 5 year retention period commences from the date on
	which the business relationship is terminated or the
	occasional transaction is carried out.
	the record keeping obligations

No.	Question	Guidance
10.02	Upon request by the FIAU, are you / your entity in a position to retrieve the requested customer records / or investigative records within the established deadlines?	When requests for information are made by the FIAU, subject persons should ensure that they are able to reply in a timely manner but not later than 5 working days, provided that subject persons are able to reply in a shorter period of time where the FIAU deems it necessary, depending on the request
	*If you / your entity received reminders or requested extensions for deadlines imposed by the FIAU, do not mark as [yes, always].	
11.38	Please indicate the total number of active customers to which a trading service other than transferable securities was	This question applies only to subsidiaries, branches, affiliates that carry out services equivalent to relevant activity or relevant financial business.
	being offered as at the end of the prior calendar year.	Collective investment schemes should take into consideration SPVs that are owned by the sub-fund in their response to this question.
		If you entity is part of a Group, the other subsidiaries / branches / affiliaites / representative offices / agencies forming part of and directly owned / controlled by other entities within the Group, should not be considered as your entity's subsidiary, branch, affiliate, representative office or agency.
11.76	Does your entity offer products or services that permit the exchange of cash for a negotiable instrument?	"A negotiable instrument" is a transferable document such as a bank note, cheque or draft containing an unconditional promise or order to pay a specified amount to its holder upon demand.
12.11	Please list the number of customers (natural persons) and / or BOs that have benefited from residence or citizenship by investment schemes, or are applicants / prospective applicants for such schemes.	Investor citizenship schemes are often referred to as CIPs ('citizenship investment programmes'), 'citizenships for sale' or 'golden passports'. They allow foreigners to be naturalised as a citizen of a country in return for an investment, provided certain criteria are fulfilled. Investor citizenship schemes differ from investor residence ('golden visa') schemes, which aim to attract investment in exchange for residence rights in the country concerned.
12.12	Of the total number of customers, please specify: a) % of customers scored / rated as "High Risk" b) % of customers scored / rated as "Medium High Risk" c) % of customers scored / rated as "Medium Risk" d) % of customers scored / rated as "Low Medium Risk" e) % of customers scored / rates as "Low Risk"	Kindly provide the risk rating of your customers as at the end of the prior calendar period. The risk rating should reflect the result of the latest customer risk assessment as carried out in line with your entity's policies and procedures.

No.	Question	Guidance
12.23	Please list the number of	Cash intensive businesses are businesses which through their
	customers who operate cash	operations receive or depend largely on cash-based
	intensive businesses.	transactions. Examples of cash intensive business include
		restaurants, petrol stations, retail stores and parking
		garages.
12.26	What is the value of the	"Value of the relationship" refers to the total monies held on
	relationships where the	account as at the end of the prior calendar year.
	beneficial owner is unknown,	
	because of the application of	
	SDD?	
13.01	What percentage of total	"Principal place of business" refers to the place where key
	customers are resident or	management and commercial decisions that are necessary
	otherwise incorporated or their	for the conduct of the business of an entity as a whole are, in
	principal place of business is in	substance, made.
12.00	Malta?	
13.06	What percentage of your	The % response should be calculated on the basis of the
	customer's BOs are resident in	total number of BOs and not on the total number of
	Malta?	customers held by you / your entity.
13.07	What percentage of your	The % response should be calculated on the basis of the
	customer's BOs are foreign and	total number of BOs and not on the total number of
	resident in an EU or EEA	customers held by you / your entity.
	jurisdiction outside Malta?	
13.08	Please list the % of your	The % response should be calculated on the basis of the
	customer's BOs who are foreign	total number of BOs and not on the total number of
	and are resident in a non-EU /	customers held by you / your entity.
	EEA member state jurisdiction.	