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Dear Chief Executive Officer Dear Compliance Officer

Post-Graduate Diploma in Financial Regulation and Compliance – An Important Update

Following our previous Dear CEO Letter dated 21 June 2024, which announced the launch of the Post-Graduate Diploma (MQF Level 7) in Financial Regulation and Compliance, developed in collaboration between the Malta Financial Services Authority (MFSA) and the University of Malta, we are writing to inform you of a significant update regarding this programme.

As you are aware, any individual proposed to hold an approved role within an entity licensed by the MFSA must undergo and satisfy a fitness and properness assessment. One of the four criteria for determining such fitness and properness relates to 'competence'. In this context, the possession of this post-graduate diploma by any person seeking approval for key function positions, such as Compliance Officer, MLRO, and Risk Manager, will be regarded favourably by the MFSA for the purposes of assessing the individual's competence. Nevertheless, the applicant must still demonstrate to the MFSA's satisfaction that all other criteria outlined in the <u>Guidance on the Fitness and Properness Assessments applied by the Authority</u> are met.

This update is expected to further streamline the process for the authorisation of approved persons. The course, designed by the MFSA and the University of Malta, will be delivered by the MFSA, the FIAU, and leading academics and industry professionals, ensuring a high standard of educational material.

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Funding opportunities for individuals can be found under the Get Qualified scheme which is an initiative that supports the personal development of individuals for the achievement of qualifications and certifications required by industry. The incentive is applicable to individuals following a course of studies which leads to a certification, diploma, degree or postgraduate degree course. Upon successful completion, the student will benefit from a tax credit enabling them to recover part of the costs incurred.

Funding opportunities for corporates can be found under the Skills development scheme 2024. On the 23 January 2024, Malta Enterprise published a new set of guidelines for The Skills Development Scheme, which aims to encourage businesses to invest in their employees by providing assistance on training to have a knowledge-based workforce. This measure will be open until 30 September 2026.

We encourage all institutions to share this information with relevant individuals and support those interested in pursuing this opportunity.

Yours Sincerely,

Malta Financial Services Authority

Kenneth Farrugia Chief Executive Officer Malta Financial Services Authority

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