

Press release issued on behalf of BCR

For immediate release: 1 May 2019

Banking Competition Remedies Ltd (BCR) announces the opening of the application window for Pool C of the Capability and Innovation Fund

Banking Competition Remedies Ltd (BCR), the independent body established to implement the £775 million Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) State Aid Alternative Remedies Package, today announces the opening of the fourth and final application window for Pool C of the Capability and Innovation Fund.

The Capability and Innovation Fund is designed to support the development of wider capabilities and competition in the SME banking markets. The fund comprises of four pools with a total value of £425 million.

Pool C is a combined value of £40 million split into four x £10 million grants. The pool aims to facilitate the expansion of business offerings to include, lending or payments services to SMEs in the UK or international payments services to SMEs in the UK.

The key dates for the application process of Pool C are as follows:

Pool C

(09:00 on) 1 May 2019:	Application window for Pool C opens
(17:00 on) 22 May 2019	Deadline for applicants to submit questions about Pool C
(17:00 on) 28 June 2019:	Application window for Pool C closes
14 August 2019:	Public announcement on Pool C

Pool C has a pre-determined application window of two months followed by one month for evaluation and a decision by the Board on successful applicants shortly thereafter.

For all four Pools of the Capability and Innovation Fund BCR has engaged an outside contractor, Baringa, to deliver the pre-Board processes and act as a resource to the BCR Board. BCR's Evaluation Committee discuss the output of this process and present a set of supported applications to the full Board, for consideration and final decision. More information on the decision-making process can be found [here](#).

BCR will continue to update its website with relevant information and updates on its FAQs page (<https://bcr-ltd.com/faqs/>). Should an applicant wish to submit a query about their application, they are encouraged to do so via the online application portal.

-Ends-

For media enquiries, please contact

Tony Langham; TonyL@lansons.com; 07979 692 287
Maddy Morgan Williams; MaddyMW@lansons.com ; 07947 364 578
Rimmi Shah; Rimmis@lansons.com ; 07963014027