

Fair banking plans ‘will not help firms’

[James Hurley](#) November 19 2018, 12:01am, The Times



The Financial Conduct Authority is backing the government’s plan to extend the remit of the Financial Ombudsman Service despite opposition from an all-party parliamentary group

Business owners who suffer the worst treatment by banks will be no better off under government-backed proposals for giving small companies better protection, MPs have been warned.

The all-party parliamentary group on fair business banking is due to contact all 650 MPs this week to say that a planned extension of the Financial Ombudsman Service, Britain’s financial arbiter, will “never” be enough to address “many difficult issues” faced by small and medium-sized companies when dealing with lenders.

“Ministers have said that they will reject the proposed tribunal in part because of concerns that it would be too expensive. The government supports an extension of the ombudsman’s role to allow more companies to gain access to its adjudication services.”

The parliamentary group told MPs that the ombudsman does not command the trust of small companies. “The FOS has a track record of dubious decisions and no appeal process,” they said, adding that other problems with relying solely on the ombudsman include its “limited” powers.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/adjudicate>

adjudicate definition: 1. to act as judge in a competition or argument, or to make a formal decision about something: 2. to act as a judge of an argument: 3. to ...

Adjudication

The legal process of resolving a dispute. The formal giving or pronouncing of a judgment or decree in a court proceeding; also the judgment or decision given. The entry of a decree by a court in respect to the parties in a case. It implies a hearing by a court, after notice, of legal

evidence on the factual issue(s) involved. The equivalent of a determination. It indicates that the claims of all the parties thereto have been considered and set at rest.