

FCA Mortgages and Open Finance Policy Sprint

8 - 9 June 2026



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Introduction

The FCA Innovation's Smart Data Accelerator will host a Mortgages and Open Finance Policy Sprint on 8–9 June 2026.

The sprint will explore how open finance can materially improve consumer outcomes across the mortgage lifecycle. It will build on earlier work on mortgages and open finance, including insights from the Mortgages TechSprint, by focusing on the policy, regulatory and market conditions that will be needed for benefits to be realised in practice.

The sprint is intended to support evidence gathering and policy development. It will test assumptions, identify evidence gaps, and help develop a clearer view of where open finance may have practical relevance in the mortgage market. This includes exploring where improved data, reduced friction, greater portability and earlier visibility of financial stress could contribute to better consumer outcomes in practice.

What is the policy sprint?

A policy sprint is a structured process designed to support policy development.

Unlike a roundtable or general workshop, it starts from specific policy questions and uses facilitated discussion and exercises to test assumptions, explore frictions and generate evidence. The aim is to support clearer prioritisation and more focused follow-up work.

Its purpose is to assess where it may improve outcomes for consumers, where its value may be more limited, and what safeguards or enabling conditions may be required. It will also explore which issues open finance may be best placed to address, and where its effectiveness may depend on wider conditions such as interoperability, standards, consumer trust and operational readiness.

Event and participation details

When

8 - 9 June 2026

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What

A two-day policy sprint focused on the role open finance could play across the mortgage lifecycle, and the policy, regulatory and ecosystem conditions that may be needed to support positive consumer outcomes.

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Where

In person at the Financial Conduct Authority Offices.

12 Endeavour Square,
London, E20 1JN.

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How to get involved

To apply, please complete the application form to provide:

- your relevant expertise or experience
- any perspective you would bring to the sprint
- any requirements or adjustments needed to support participation

Key dates

21 April 2026 - application window opens

19 May 2026 - applications close

22 May 2026 - decisions communicated

End of May 2026 - bootcamp briefing

8 – 9 June 2026 - policy sprint

[Click here to apply to participate in the Mortgages and Open Finance Policy Sprint.](#)

Overarching problem statement

What policy, regulatory and ecosystem conditions need to be established for open finance to be deployed in a way that meaningfully improves consumer outcomes across the mortgage lifecycle?

Why mortgages?

Mortgages are one of the most significant financial commitments many consumers make. They also involve a series of decisions and processes over time, from preparing to buy a home, to applying for a mortgage, to managing borrowing as circumstances change.

The sprint will examine whether open finance could improve outcomes in areas such as:

- access to lending
- affordability assessment
- process efficiency
- more tailored products, support or advice over time
- switching and portability
- earlier identification of financial difficulty

It will also consider the practical constraints that may shape adoption and outcomes, including consumer trust, stakeholder incentives, fraud and scam risks, and the role of verification and minimum data standards. The sprint will explore whether open finance could help address more structural issues in the mortgage market, including narrow affordability datasets, fragmented journeys, limited portability and weak visibility of emerging stress.



Mortgage lifecycle

The sprint will be organised around the mortgage lifecycle as a practical way of structuring discussion and evidence gathering. Across the lifecycle, the sprint will focus on:

- consumer engagement and understanding
- data, verification and evidence-sharing
- process efficiency, portability and market functioning
- consumer protection, safeguards and market conditions

1. Preparing for home ownership / entering the market

- mortgage readiness and financial capability
- datasets needed to evidence readiness
- barriers faced by first-time buyers and consumers with complex incomes
- consumer understanding and trust
- whether broader financial data could support earlier, more realistic views of affordability and suitability

2. Applying for and taking out a mortgage

- underwriting, affordability assessment and verification
- friction and duplication in application processes
- barriers to lender and intermediary adoption
- where improved data could support better or faster decisions
- how standardised and interoperable data could reduce journey friction
- how outcomes may differ across consumer groups, including first-time buyers and consumers with thinner or less conventional financial records

3. Owning, managing and being supported through change

- financial visibility and forecasting
- mortgage-specific advice and support
- use of data over time, including remortgaging, overpayments and product switching
- scope for more tailored products or journeys
- whether open finance could support earlier identification of financial difficulty or changing needs
- how data portability and reduced friction might support remortgaging and switching

4. Later life and evolving mortgage needs

- changing circumstances and later-life borrowing
- product suitability and consumer protection
- safeguards and advice considerations as needs become more complex
- how open finance may or may not remain useful as consumer needs evolve over time

What participation involves

Participants will be asked to:

- attend and contribute across both sprint days
- take part in facilitated discussions and structured group exercises
- share relevant expertise, evidence and practical insight
- help identify barriers, risks, evidence gaps and areas of uncertainty
- engage constructively with a range of perspectives

The sprint is intended to support collaborative policy exploration. It is not a product demonstration or practical testing event.

Desired outputs

The sprint is expected to produce:

- a clearer articulation of policy ideas, risks, safeguards, uncertainties and evidence gaps to support the design of the regulatory framework
- a clearer view of where open finance may add value across the mortgage lifecycle
- a prioritised assessment of the areas most relevant for further policy exploration
- improved understanding of how open finance may affect different consumer groups



The spirit of the event

Collaboration

The policy sprint is intended to support open, constructive and evidence-based discussion. Participants should be prepared to engage with a range of views and to test assumptions in a structured way.

Balanced participation

We aim to bring together a range of participants with relevant expertise and perspectives. This is intended to support well-rounded discussion and robust challenge.

Participants

We welcome applications from organisations and individuals with relevant expertise, including:

- mortgage lenders
- intermediaries and brokers
- consumer and advice organisations
- technology and data providers
- academics and researchers
- policy and regulatory specialists
- other stakeholders with relevant experience of the mortgage market or consumer journeys

Logistics

Participants should be available for both days of the sprint.

Further logistical information will be shared with confirmed participants.

Sharing communications about the event

Confidentiality

Applications and participation will be handled through the FCA process.

Further guidance will be shared with participants where relevant.

Press and external communications

Any wider communications referring to the sprint should be agreed with the FCA in advance.

Terminology

Participants should describe their involvement as participation or collaboration, rather than partnership.

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