

# At a glance

## FPC reveals operational resilience stress test details

### What's new?

- The Bank of England's Financial Policy Committee (FPC) has shared more details of the first stress test to be undertaken relating to cyber incidents, in the minutes of its [February 2019 meeting](#), published on 5 March 2019. This builds on its 2018 announcement summarised [here](#).
- The pilot stress testing exercise will launch in summer 2019, focusing on a hypothetical scenario under which firms' systems supporting their payments are unavailable.
- It will explore the robustness of firms' responses, as well as the interdependencies between parts of the system in the context of impact tolerances.

### What does this mean?

- This scenario is the first of a programme of regular stress testing which the Bank of England will undertake. It has already signalled a possible future scenario relating to the corruption of data.
- The FPC will set its impact tolerance at the point it judges disruption would begin to cause material economic impact.
- In this scenario the FPC will work to an overall tolerance to complete settlement of payments by the end of the value date, but recognises that firms won't meet this in the most extreme cases.
- Beyond this overall tolerance, there are also case-specific factors which may need to be considered to better determine the point at which a cyber-related disruption would start to pose risks to financial stability.
- The Bank will test the idea of impact tolerances, looking at: factors affecting firms' ability to meet an impact tolerance and whether doing so may lead to unintended consequences; and what would happen if actions taken to bring service back within tolerance were unsuccessful.
- The Bank has committed to publishing high level insights from the exercise that would determine the finalised impact tolerances and scenarios for future tests.

### What do firms need to do?

- All firms offering payment services should already have a clear view of how their infrastructure comes together to deliver payment services to their customers, as this is an important baseline to identify the material risks and mitigation. Our guide to [Becoming Operationally Resilient](#) is a helpful resource here.
- For the firms invited to take part in the pilot exercise, this pre-work will be critical.
- All firms should take note of the overall findings when they are published by the Bank and incorporate them into future operational planning.

### Next steps



The Bank will engage with firms to determine the right coverage for the pilot, and will use the results to finalise its impact tolerances and future scenarios.

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