

**BLACKROCK®**

BlackRock Institutional Trust  
Company, National Association (UK  
Branch)

Annual Best Execution Disclosure 2017

April 2018



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# Introduction

The publication of this report is required under the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive 2014/65/EU (“MIFID II”) and it is designed to provide information on the top five entities to which BlackRock transmitted its clients’ orders for execution. It also includes information on how BlackRock monitors the quality of its clients’ trade execution, on BlackRock’s conflicts of interest and other matters, as they relate to the execution by BlackRock of its clients’ trades. The information in this report is in relation to orders transmitted for professional clients only during calendar year 2017. This document comprises two separate sections: a quantitative section, with information about the proportion of orders (and, where applicable, certain attributes of these orders) that were directed by BlackRock to its top five entities for each class of financial instruments as specified in the report; and a qualitative section, with information about monitoring, conflicts, inducements and other relevant matters.

The quantitative section is presented first, and the qualitative section follows.

Where BlackRock has not transmitted orders for execution in a given class of financial instrument, the relevant quantitative section shows that BlackRock transmitted fewer than 1 trade per business day on average during calendar year 2017, and it shows no other qualitative information.

The Firm utilises a centralised trading model such that BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, National Association (UK Branch) orders are placed with a small number of market facing affiliates for execution, in accordance with BlackRock’s Global Execution and Order Placement Policy. As such, only BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, National Association (UK Branch) market facing affiliates appear in the its report of top five entities to which clients’ orders were transmitted for execution. In Europe, centralised trading is carried out through BlackRock International Limited and information about execution venues or entities with which BlackRock International Limited executed or to which it transmitted orders on its own behalf and on behalf of, among others, BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, National Association (UK Branch) can be accessed at the below link

<https://blkcwpp001.bfm.com:9483/corporate/literature/annual-report/blackrockinternationallimitedannualdisclosure.pdf>

In accordance with regulatory guidance, this report has been prepared on a best efforts basis. For example, where trading data for 2017 had not been collected in accordance with the categories required by MIFID II, we have made certain assumptions in order to attribute data to the relevant categories.

The Firm is required to make these reports publicly available on its website on an annual basis, and a new report will be made available by 30 April 2019 in relation to orders transmitted during calendar year 2018.

## Top five entity report for transmission of orders

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Class of Instrument	Debt instruments: Bonds				
Notification if <1 average trade per business day in the previous year	N				
Top 5 venues ranked in terms of volume (descending order)	Proportion of volume traded as a percentage of total in that class	Proportion of orders executed as a percentage of total in that class	Percentage of passive orders	Percentage of aggressive orders	Percentage of directed orders
BlackRock International Limited 5493008YUGP5E01BD70	100.00%	100.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Class of Instrument	Credit derivatives: Futures & Options admitted to trading on a trading venue				
Notification if <1 average trade per business day in the previous year	N				
Top 5 venues ranked in terms of volume (descending order)	Proportion of volume traded as a percentage of total in that class	Proportion of orders executed as a percentage of total in that class	Percentage of passive orders	Percentage of aggressive orders	Percentage of directed orders
BlackRock International Limited 5493008YUGP5E01BD70	100.00%	100.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Class of Instrument	Credit derivatives: other credit derivatives				
Notification if <1 average trade per business day in the previous year	Y				
Top 5 venues ranked in terms of volume (descending order)	Proportion of volume traded as a percentage of total in that class	Proportion of orders executed as a percentage of total in that class	Percentage of passive orders	Percentage of aggressive orders	Percentage of directed orders

Class of Instrument	Equity derivatives: Swaps & other equity derivatives				
Notification if <1 average trade per business day in the previous year	Y				
Top 5 venues ranked in terms of volume (descending order)	Proportion of volume traded as a percentage of total in that class	Proportion of orders executed as a percentage of total in that class	Percentage of passive orders	Percentage of aggressive orders	Percentage of directed orders

Class of Instrument	Interest Rate derivatives: Futures & Options admitted to trading on a trading venue				
Notification if <1 average trade per business day in the previous year	N				
Top 5 venues ranked in terms of volume (descending order)	Proportion of volume traded as a percentage of total in that class	Proportion of orders executed as a percentage of total in that class	Percentage of passive orders	Percentage of aggressive orders	Percentage of directed orders
BlackRock International Limited 5493008YUGP5E01BD70	99.999%	99.92%	N/A	N/A	N/A
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, National Association 549300RK1FB0VMTPD087	0.001%	0.08%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Class of Instrument	Interest Rate derivatives: Swaps, forwards & other interest rates derivatives				
Notification if <1 average trade per business day in the previous year	Y				
Top 5 venues ranked in terms of volume (descending order)	Proportion of volume traded as a percentage of total in that class	Proportion of orders executed as a percentage of total in that class	Percentage of passive orders	Percentage of aggressive orders	Percentage of directed orders

Class of Instrument	other instruments				
Notification if <1 average trade per business day in the previous year	Y				
Top 5 venues ranked in terms of volume (descending order)	Proportion of volume traded as a percentage of total in that class	Proportion of orders executed as a percentage of total in that class	Percentage of passive orders	Percentage of aggressive orders	Percentage of directed orders

Class of Instrument	Commodities derivatives: other commodities derivatives				
Notification if <1 average trade per business day in the previous year	Y				
Top 5 venues ranked in terms of volume (descending order)	Proportion of volume traded as a percentage of total in that class	Proportion of orders executed as a percentage of total in that class	Percentage of passive orders	Percentage of aggressive orders	Percentage of directed orders

Class of Instrument	Contracts For Difference				
Notification if <1 average trade per business day in the previous year	Y				
Top 5 venues ranked in terms of volume (descending order)	Proportion of volume traded as a percentage of total in that class	Proportion of orders executed as a percentage of total in that class	Percentage of passive orders	Percentage of aggressive orders	Percentage of directed orders

Class of Instrument	Currency derivatives: Swaps, forwards & other currency derivatives				
Notification if <1 average trade per business day in the previous year	Y				
Top 5 venues ranked in terms of volume (descending order)	Proportion of volume traded as a percentage of total in that class	Proportion of orders executed as a percentage of total in that class	Percentage of passive orders	Percentage of aggressive orders	Percentage of directed orders

Class of Instrument	Debt instruments: Money Market Instruments				
Notification if <1 average trade per business day in the previous year	Y				
Top 5 venues ranked in terms of volume (descending order)	Proportion of volume traded as a percentage of total in that class	Proportion of orders executed as a percentage of total in that class	Percentage of passive orders	Percentage of aggressive orders	Percentage of directed orders

Class of Instrument	Equities - Shares & Depositary Receipts				
Notification if <1 average trade per business day in the previous year	Y				
Top 5 venues ranked in terms of volume (descending order)	Proportion of volume traded as a percentage of total in that class	Proportion of orders executed as a percentage of total in that class	Percentage of passive orders	Percentage of aggressive orders	Percentage of directed orders

Class of Instrument	Equity derivatives: Futures & Options admitted to trading on a trading venue				
Notification if <1 average trade per business day in the previous year	Y				
Top 5 venues ranked in terms of volume (descending order)	Proportion of volume traded as a percentage of total in that class	Proportion of orders executed as a percentage of total in that class	Percentage of passive orders	Percentage of aggressive orders	Percentage of directed orders

Class of Instrument	Exchange Traded Products				
Notification if <1 average trade per business day in the previous year	Y				
Top 5 venues ranked in terms of volume (descending order)	Proportion of volume traded as a percentage of total in that class	Proportion of orders executed as a percentage of total in that class	Percentage of passive orders	Percentage of aggressive orders	Percentage of directed orders

Class of Instrument	Securitized derivatives: other securitized derivatives				
Notification if <1 average trade per business day in the previous year	Y				
Top 5 venues ranked in terms of volume (descending order)	Proportion of volume traded as a percentage of total in that class	Proportion of orders executed as a percentage of total in that class	Percentage of passive orders	Percentage of aggressive orders	Percentage of directed orders

Class of Instrument	Structured Finance Instruments				
Notification if <1 average trade per business day in the previous year	Y				
Top 5 venues ranked in terms of volume (descending order)	Proportion of volume traded as a percentage of total in that class	Proportion of orders executed as a percentage of total in that class	Percentage of passive orders	Percentage of aggressive orders	Percentage of directed orders

# Qualitative Analysis

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# Debt instruments: Bonds

When executing trades or transmitting orders in Debt instruments: Bonds, all general PM instructions and considerations based on the nature of the order apply to trades in debt instruments. While some debt instruments are listed, they are commonly traded in a decentralized OTC manner.

Orders for debt instruments with forward benchmarks are typically executed around the point in time specified by the PM, since there isn't an official closing auction in these markets. If there is insufficient liquidity available, then trading might also take place earlier or later to mitigate market impact.

For orders with a best efforts benchmark, BlackRock applies a variety of execution methods most suitable for balancing price and the impact of order size on transaction costs.

Trading activity across all fixed income venues for debt instruments was reviewed periodically. Consideration was given to all relevant factors for venue selection including but not limited to execution quality, costs, trade confirmation and settlement capabilities, and risk concentration. Upon review, all venues were deemed to have satisfactorily fulfilled all requirements as defined by the prioritized factors and characteristics of the order and no changes were made to our list of approved execution venues and brokers. For large OTC orders where liquidity can be limited, performance monitoring has shown that the use of individual brokers yields positive results in line with our client needs.

BlackRock owns directly or indirectly stakes in certain trading venues (and BlackRock personnel may be appointed to serve on their boards) to which BlackRock may also direct clients' orders for execution, subject to its best execution obligations and in accordance with its best execution policy. BlackRock may have strategic partnerships with certain trading venues for the development of electronic trading capabilities. Such arrangements have the purpose of providing lower-cost or more standardized trading or post trade services, or to increase access to liquidity, scalability and reduce risk. A conflict of interest may arise to the extent that BlackRock chooses to direct clients' orders to such venues in circumstances when this may be detrimental to its clients' interests. BlackRock mitigates this conflict by following its Best Execution Policy, including primary focus on appropriate venue selection based upon execution factors.

## BlackRock's Affiliates

BlackRock may use order transmission and execution services of one or more of its investment management affiliated companies, who will transmit BlackRock's orders to third parties for execution or act as agent for the purpose of executing such orders in accordance with BlackRock's order execution policy.

BES primarily provides equities and fixed income trade execution services for institutional accounts that are managed by affiliates of BlackRock, Inc. in connection with portfolio transition management advisory engagements. BES does not take any proprietary positions, make any markets, or provide any liquidity from its own account. BES does not maintain customer accounts or take possession of any customer funds or securities.

## Luminex

BlackRock, Inc. owns indirectly through its subsidiary BlackRock Financial Management, Inc. a minority stake in a joint venture, Luminex Trading & Analytics LLC ("Luminex"), and it has representation on its board. Luminex is an independent equity trading venue owned and operated by a consortium of leading investment management firms. It provides a platform for investment managers to trade large blocks of stock with other investment managers at a lower cost and uses transparent trading rules and protocols.

## Equilend

BlackRock, with nine other financial institutions, is an equal part owner and board member of Equilend LLC. EquiLend's services are designed to increase efficiency and automation in the global securities finance marketplace. They provide a standardized and centralized global platform for trading and post trade services to increase access to liquidity, scalability and reduce risk.



# Debt instruments: Bonds

## MarketAxess

BlackRock has a strategic partnership with MarketAxess to develop electronic trading in fixed income markets. The two firms collaborate on product design and development, joint marketing and client engagement. BlackRock utilises TRAX, a wholly owned subsidiary of MarketAxess focusing on data and reporting, as its Approved Publication Arrangement provider to meet its post-trade reporting requirements under MiFID II.

## TradeWeb

BlackRock and Tradeweb have a strategic alliance to develop electronic trading capabilities in global rates and derivatives products. Tradeweb operates electronic over the counter marketplaces serving a variety of institutions including banks, asset managers, central banks, pension funds, and insurance companies. The firms focus on applying technology to drive greater efficiency and overall performance in fixed income and derivatives products.

BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, National Association (UK Branch) does not have any specific arrangements regarding payments made or received, discounts, rebates or non-monetary benefits received with any of the third parties to which it transmitted orders in Debt instruments: Bonds during the previous year. BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, National Association (UK Branch) may accept permissible minor non-monetary benefits from third parties which consist of the following: a) Generic information on a financial instrument or investment service, which is personalised to reflect BlackRock's circumstances, b) written material that is commissioned and paid for by a corporate issuer or potential issuer to promote a new corporate issuance, provided that the relationship with the issuer is clearly disclosed in the material and is made available at the same time to all interested firms, or to the general public, c) participation at conferences, seminars and other training events on the benefits and features of specific financial instruments and investment services, d) hospitality of a reasonable de minimis value, including food and drink during a business meeting, seminar, conference or training session, e) research relating to an issue of securities, which is produced by an underwriter/placing agent acting for the issuer and (i) is produced prior to the issue being completed and (ii) is made available to prospective investors in the issue and f) research which is received for limited trial periods so that BlackRock may evaluate a research provider's research service.

All prospective and existing counterparties require the approval of BlackRock's Counterparty and Concentration Risk Group ("CCRG"), who are part of BlackRock's independent Risk & Quantitative Analysis team ("RQA") and are responsible for implementing, updating, and maintaining counterparty credit policies and procedures (collectively the "RQA Counterparty Credit Policy") designed to identify and evaluate counterparty credit risk and establish appropriate practices to manage this risk and maintain the overall quality of client and firm counterparty credit portfolios. All employees responsible for trade execution are required to comply with the RQA Counterparty Credit Policy.

For a new counterparty to be approved, a requesting PM or trader (or client relationship manager, when the request originates from a client) is required to submit a request to the CCRG. The CCRG reviews relevant information to assess the financial strength of the proposed counterparty and appropriateness of counterparty exposures arising from the products to be traded.

CCRG maintains a list of approved counterparties and reviews the list on an on-going basis alongside a number of sources, including audited and interim financial reports, rating agency reports and bulletins where available, databases and news media, and, if covered, output from the BlackRock Credit Research Group. All trading counterparties undergo a cyclical formal review and renewal on a 12 to 18 month basis, which is documented in a form established and/or agreed by the Chief Counterparty Credit Officer. Additional interim counterparty reviews may be completed in accordance with local regulatory requirements.

This report is in relation to professional clients' orders only.

We have developed data management systems and dedicated personnel to source, analyze, and provide reliable market information on which we base trades. Our platform collects comprehensive price levels from broker-dealers, both indicative and traded, in the cash and synthetic markets, data feeds from third party providers as well as data from electronic exchanges. Further, BlackRock performs comprehensive post-trade analysis which employs proprietary Transaction Cost Analysis (TCA) application and enriches transaction data with further market data.

No consolidated tape was available during the period covered by this report.

# Credit derivatives: Futures & Options admitted to trading on a trading venue

When executing trades or transmitting orders in Credit derivatives: Future & Options admitted to trading on a trading venue, all general PM instructions and considerations based on the nature of the order apply to trades in listed futures and options.

Orders for listed instruments with forward benchmarks typically are executed in the closing auction for markets where such a mechanism exists. If there is insufficient liquidity in the auction, then trading might also take place earlier or later to mitigate market impact.

For orders with a best efforts benchmark, BlackRock typically chooses an execution method most suitable for balancing price and likelihood of execution.

Where the size of an order is significant relative to available liquidity in the secondary market, traders may prioritize execution channels which provide supplemental or surrogate sources of liquidity, such as broker capital markets.

For liquid options within a reasonable range of tradeable market sizes, traders will prioritize trading platforms that facilitate price discovery through requests for quotes from multiple market participants.

Trading activity across all fixed income venues for fixed income listed futures and options, OTC fixed income derivatives, and debt instruments was reviewed periodically. Consideration was given to all relevant factors for venue selection including but not limited to execution quality, costs, trade confirmation and settlement capabilities, and risk concentration. Upon review, all venues were deemed to have satisfactorily fulfilled all requirements as defined by the prioritized factors and characteristics of the order and no changes were made to our list of approved execution venues and brokers. For large OTC orders where liquidity can be limited, performance monitoring has shown that the use of individual brokers yields positive results in line with our client needs.

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BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, National Association (UK Branch) does not have any specific arrangements regarding payments made or received, discounts, rebates or non-monetary benefits received with any of the third parties to which it transmitted orders in credit derivatives; Future & Options admitted to trading on a trading venue during the previous year. BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, National Association (UK Branch) may accept permissible minor non-monetary benefits from third parties which consist of the following: a) Generic information on a financial instrument or investment service, which is personalised to reflect BlackRock's circumstances, b) written material that is commissioned and paid for by a corporate issuer or potential issuer to promote a new corporate issuance, provided that the relationship with the issuer is clearly disclosed in the material and is made available at the same time to all interested firms, or to the general public, c) participation at conferences, seminars and other training events on the benefits and features of specific financial instruments and investment services, d) hospitality of a reasonable de minimis value, including food and drink during a business meeting, seminar, conference or training session, e) research relating to an issue of securities, which is produced by an underwriter/placing agent acting for the issuer and (i) is produced prior to the issue being completed and (ii) is made available to prospective investors in the issue and f) research which is received for limited trial periods so that BlackRock may evaluate a research provider's research service.

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# Interest rate derivatives: Futures & Options admitted to trading on a trading venue

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No consolidated tape was available during the period covered by this report.

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