

CMA Bulletin

To: CMA MEMBERS
No: BU146
Title: Replacement of Nottingham disaster recovery site with Microsoft Azure cloud-based solution
Purpose: For Information
Expiry date: NA
From: Jon Grassie
Date: 9 June 2021

Background:

The CMA Central Systems and the SLP currently include a disaster recovery site based at the Iomart Datacentre in Nottingham. If anything were to happen to our primary datacentre in Glasgow, such that access to the CS and SLP were disrupted, there is the ability to switch over to the back-up systems in Nottingham with a minimum of fuss or delay.

However, as part of the Asset Upgrade Project in 2020 (CMACP286 – Asset Upgrades (IT Strategy Review 2019)) it was recognised that the Nottingham solution required to be reviewed as the on-site hardware was coming to its end of life. To address this, a new Microsoft Azure cloud-based Market Continuity infrastructure was established as a Proof of Concept in the autumn of last year, to duplicate the existing estate. This new cloud-based solution was evaluated and successfully tested at the end of last year, for both in terms of HVI and LVI connectivity, as well as transaction load processing. As a result of this evaluation exercise, the decision has been taken to replace Nottingham with the MC Azure cloud-based solution. As per the existing Nottingham MC solution, like for like log-shipping would continue to be performed, with Application and Database MC Azure servers being offline and replicating every 15mins with the on-premises Production servers. This log-shipping activity, as with the existing Market Continuity solution, is effectivity invisible to Trading Parties.

Next Steps:

The new Azure cloud-based Market Continuity solution will be implemented with effect from 1st July 2021. No actions are required by Trading Parties as a result of this change. However, in line with the testing cycle in previous years, the new solution will be subjected to periodic Market Continuity testing. It is envisaged that the next Market Continuity Test exercise will be scheduled for November 2021.

Any queries relating to these changes should be submitted to Jonathan.Grassie@cmascotland.co.uk.

Many thanks

Jon Grassie
Head of Operations