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REGULATORY INTELLIGENCE FOR COMPLIANCE, LEGAL, TAX, AND RISK LEADERS ACROSS THE UAE AND WIDER MEA

Emiratization and DFSA rulebook reform advance together

A targeted amendment to the Emiratization framework and a batch of DFSA consultation papers give the week its regulatory weight. MoHRE's amendment to the private healthcare Emiratization structure requires facilities employing 50 or more workers to split their 2% annual growth target equally between specialised healthcare professions and other skilled roles, reshaping mid-year compliance planning for the sector. The DFSA's Consultation Paper No. 169 proposes formalised ongoing notification obligations for DNFBPs, new fee structures for DNFBP registration, and targeted fixes to capital calculation rules for Authorised Firms. A concurrent base rate decision by the CBUAE holds the Overnight Deposit Facility rate at 3.65%, with immediate effect. Licensed banks, finance companies, and private healthcare facilities carry the heaviest near-term compliance exposure.

By the SignalMEA desk

SignalMEA surfaces regulatory developments as they reach our monitored sources each week. In some cases, a document's original issuance date may predate the week shown, and we report items when they become available through the regulators we track.

KEY DATES AHEAD

Due 31 December 2026. Second-half 1% Emiratization growth in specialised healthcare roles due for private healthcare facilities that have met the first-half skilled jobs target

WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU**BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

Licensed banks and finance companies must apply the maintained Base Rate of 3.65% to Overnight Deposit Facility transactions and price standing credit facility borrowing at 4.15% with effect from 17 June 2026.

DNFBPS AND ADVISERS

DNFBPs registered or seeking registration in the DIFC face proposed ongoing notification obligations for activity changes and new application and registration fees under DFSA Consultation Paper No. 169.

CORPORATES AND EMPLOYERS

Private sector healthcare facilities employing 50 or more workers must now allocate half of their annual 2% Emiratization growth to specialised healthcare professions, with the second-half 1% target due by 31 December 2026.

CRITICAL UPDATES

CENTRAL BANK OF THE UAE · UAE – FEDERAL

17 June 2026

CRITICAL

CBUAE Maintains Base Rate at 3.65% with Immediate Effect from 17 June 2026

Banking · Monetary Policy · Liquidity Facilities

WHAT HAPPENED

The Central Bank of the UAE announced on 17 June 2026 that the Base Rate applicable to the Overnight Deposit Facility is maintained at 3.65%, following the US Federal Reserve's decision to hold the Interest Rate on Reserve Balances unchanged. Institutions borrowing short-term liquidity via CBUAE standing credit facilities continue to pay a 50-basis-point premium above the Base Rate, equating to 4.15%.

WHY IT MATTERS

The unchanged Base Rate takes effect immediately, requiring licensed banks, finance companies, exchange houses, and payment service providers to confirm that overnight money market pricing and short-term borrowing costs reflect the 3.65% floor without adjustment. Treasury and asset-liability management functions must verify that internal rate models remain aligned to the maintained rate.

AFFECTED ENTITIES

Licensed banks, finance companies, exchange houses, payment service providers, and all other institutions accessing the CBUAE Overnight Deposit Facility or short-term standing credit facilities

KEY OBLIGATIONS

Licensed banks and financial institutions must apply the maintained Base Rate of 3.65% to all transactions referencing the Overnight Deposit Facility rate with immediate effect from 17 June 2026.

Institutions borrowing short-term liquidity via CBUAE standing credit facilities must price such borrowing at 50 basis points above the Base Rate, equating to 4.15%.

Treasury and asset-liability management functions at licensed banks and finance companies must update internal rate models and overnight money market pricing to reflect the unchanged Base Rate floor.

IN FORCE

In force since 17 June 2026 (Rate maintained with effect from date of announcement)

[Read full document →](#)**EMPLOYMENT AND EMIRATISATION**

MoHRE's healthcare amendment shifts Emiratization compliance from volume to composition, exposing private healthcare facilities to a new job-category constraint on their second-half 2026 target.

MOHRE · UAE – FEDERAL

16 June 2026

HIGH

MoHRE Amends Healthcare Emiratization Framework: 50% of Annual Target Must Be in Specialised Healthcare Roles

Emiratization · Healthcare · Workforce Compliance

WHAT HAPPENED

MoHRE, in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Prevention, amended the Emiratization framework for private sector healthcare facilities employing 50 or more workers. The amendment requires that the mandated 2% annual growth in Emirati hires be divided equally: 50% placed in specialised healthcare professions and 50% in other skilled roles, replacing a previous approach that counted all skilled jobs uniformly.

WHY IT MATTERS

Facilities that have already achieved their first-half 1% growth through general skilled roles must now direct their second-half 1% growth specifically to specialised healthcare positions. The amendment introduces a job-composition constraint on top of the existing headcount requirement, altering mid-year compliance planning for the sector. The second-half target falls due by 31 December 2026.

AFFECTED ENTITIES

Private sector healthcare facilities employing 50 or more workers subject to the 2% annual Emiratization growth requirement

KEY OBLIGATIONS

Private healthcare facilities employing 50 or more workers must ensure their 2% annual Emiratization growth target is split equally, with 50% of required new Emirati hires placed in specialised healthcare professions and 50% in other skilled roles.

Facilities that have already achieved the 1% first-half growth in skilled jobs for 2026 must direct their second-half 1% growth specifically to specialised healthcare roles to comply with the amended job-composition requirement.

DEADLINE

Due 31 December 2026 (Second-half 1% specialised healthcare roles target)

[Read full document →](#)**ALSO THIS WEEK****CENTRAL BANK OF THE UAE**

UAE – FEDERAL

16 JUNE 2026

MEDIUM

CBUAE and Central Bank of Kosovo Sign MoU on Supervisory, FinTech, and AML/CFT Cooperation

The Central Bank of the UAE and the Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 16 June 2026 covering bilateral cooperation across supervisory and regulatory areas, financial technology development, AML/CFT, Islamic finance, payment systems, financial consumer protection, and financial inclusion. No binding obligations arise for UAE-licensed institutions from the signing.

[Read full document →](#)**ADGM REGISTRATION AUTHORITY**

ADGM – ABU DHABI

17 JUNE 2026

MEDIUM

ADGM Court Orders Restoration of PACE CONSULTING LTD to the Register

The ADGM Court ordered the restoration of PACE CONSULTING LTD (registration number 000002766) to the ADGM register under section 889(1)(e) of the Companies Regulations 2020, with effect from 17 June 2026 when the Court order was delivered to the Registrar. The company's prior dissolution is reversed and its legal personality reinstated under its original name and registration number.

[Read full document →](#)**DFSA CONSULTATION PAPERS**

DIFC – DUBAI

16 JUNE 2026

MEDIUM

DFSA Consultation Paper No. 171: Miscellaneous Changes

The DFSA published Consultation Paper No. 171, covering miscellaneous changes to the DFSA rulebook. The consultation was published on 16 June 2026. Further detail on the specific proposed amendments is available at the source.

[Read full document →](#)**ALSO RECORDED**

Other items from the week, for reference.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE · Ministry of Finance Unveils UAE's First Sovereign Retail T-Sukuk Investment Opportunities for Citizens and Residents · 17 June 2026

CENTRAL BANK OF THE UAE · CBUAE Completes Project Aperta: Cross-Border Open Finance Prototype · 17 June 2026

CENTRAL BANK OF THE UAE · Emirates Institute of Finance Milestones 2025 · 17 June 2026

MINISTRY OF FINANCE · Ministry of Finance Reports Over AED 46 Billion in Distributed Tax Revenues for Federal and Local Governments by the End of 2025 · 16 June 2026

MINISTRY OF FINANCE · Maktoum bin Mohammed Launches the Ministry of Finance's 2027–2029 Strategic Plan · 18 June 2026

MINISTRY OF FINANCE · UAE Participates in 2026 Islamic Development Bank Group Annual Meetings in Azerbaijan · 19 June 2026

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING

Still watching: the CBUAE Remuneration Regulation C 5/2026 is in force; supervisory assessments of licensed banks' and insurance companies' remuneration frameworks remain the next compliance test under this instrument. Still watching: the CBUAE and World Bank Group cooperation agreement signed on 12 June 2026 identifies the development of a National Financial Literacy Strategy and revised dispute resolution mechanisms for licensed banks and insurance companies as priority areas; any resultant consultation or binding guidance from the CBUAE warrants tracking. New thread: DFSA Consultation Paper No. 169 proposes that the K-ASA and K-AUM capital rule amendments under proposed PIB Rules 3.8C.4 and 3.8C.5 take effect on 1 July 2026; finalisation of that consultation and any confirmed effective date warrant tracking.

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