



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ACTUARIES

ACA NEWS

1 September 2023

Here is our periodic brief for ACA members summarising activities and events we have planned over the period ahead.

REGISTER NOW FOR SEMINARS:

ACA WEB CONFERENCE – 2 to 6 OCTOBER 2023

The programme for this Autumn's one week web conference – one seminar each day – can be found below. The Conference is available to all ACA Members (fees paid by ACA firms), but if you wish to attend any of the one-hour long sessions you need to register for each session at the appropriate link below. Just click on the REGISTER HERE button for each seminar and you will be sent by email a link to join the webinar(s) you register for:

Monday 2 October – 12 noon

1. DB pension surpluses – a win-win?

WTW Speakers: Edd Collins & Debbie Webb

Chair: Steven Taylor (ACA Chair)

If pensions policy made it easier for DB surpluses to be accessed, this could benefit pensioners, sponsoring employers and current employees and the resulting changes to investment strategy could help deliver the Government's objectives around productive investment. In this webinar we look at six possible changes which could seize the DB pensions surplus opportunity. The reaction of, and options for, trustees will also be considered.

Register [HERE](#)

Tuesday 3 October – 12 noon

2. LDI – 12 months on

Speaker: Lauren Brady (Insight Investment)

A year on from the gilt crisis, pension schemes' LDI strategies are more resilient than ever before. This webinar will consider the place of LDI in light of proposed reforms, developing regulations, and new opportunities for pension schemes – and its role in achieving the best outcomes for scheme members.

Register [HERE](#)

Wednesday 4 October – 4pm

3. If I was the next Pensions Minister, what would my 5-point plan be to achieve within 5 years?

**Panel: Leonard Bowman (Hymans Robertson), Steve Hitchiner (Barnett Waddingham and SPP President)
+ more to be announced**

Reform of pensions is all the rage. What policies will our panel focus on if given the chance?

Register [HERE](#)

Thursday 5 October – 4pm

4. Implications of the Virgin Media Case

Speakers: David James (Travers Smith) & TBC (WTW)

We will look at implications of one of the biggest cases in recent history which means that certain scheme amendments in the period all the way back to 1997 could potentially be void if the required actuarial confirmations were not obtained. We will look at the implications from both a legal and actuarial perspective. We will consider what amendments might be affected and trustee duties in light of the case. We will also consider the implications for scheme journey planning and possible fixes for the issue.

APL MEMBERS WILL BE INVITED TO JOIN THIS SESSION

Register [HERE](#)

Friday 6 October – 12 noon

5. How has the pandemic continued to alter the approach for setting mortality assumptions?

Speakers: Cobus Daneel (WTW) & Mark Sharkey (Club Vita)

The COVID-19 pandemic has been the most significant global mortality event in living memory, and its effects will be felt for many years to come. Join Cobus Daneel from WTW and Mark Sharkey from Club Vita for a session exploring the impact of the pandemic on mortality modelling. They will dig into the key factors for developing current mortality assumptions as well as considerations for the projection of future mortality improvements within specific sub-populations in the aftermath of COVID-19.

Register [HERE](#)

PLACES STILL AVAILABLE: 13 SEPTEMBER 2023 at 5.30pm

ST ERMIN'S SESSIONAL:

“This House believes actuaries should do more to help sponsors and schemes with ESG/Sustainability” with **Vanessa Hodge** (Partner, Mercer) and **Mark**

Rowlinson (Partner, First Actuarial) arguing for and against the motion. And we look forward to Members asking questions and raising their perspectives at the session!

Note: *Speaker positions taken are for the purposes of debate rather than representative of the individual views of the speaker or the firm*

To be followed by a presentation from **Sanjay Joshi** (Head of Impact at Hymans), one of the authors of the recent IFOA paper titled [Emperor's New Climate Scenarios](#) which covers the limitations and assumptions of commonly used climate-change scenarios in financial services.

Vanessa and Mark then to provide some concluding remarks before the audience is invited to vote for or against the motion.

A SEPARATE NOTICE TO BOOK FOR THE MEETING AND DINNER HAS BEEN CIRCULATED EITHER DIRECT OR VIA YOUR FIRM'S ACA CONTACT (WHICHEVER IS THE USUAL PRACTISE). IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND LET tracey@aca.org.uk KNOW ASAP.

NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE:

We will be circulating a summary and links to the ACA's response to the four 'Mansion House' evidence calls and consultations all due to be submitted by 5 September.

Issued by:

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