



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ACTUARIES

ACA NEWS

5 March 2021

Welcome to *ACA News*, our periodic brief for ACA members summarising activities, responses made to consultations and events we have planned over the period ahead.

ACA 2021 Policy Priorities

Each year, the ACA Main Committee and Committee Chairs review what should be the ACA's public policy priorities for the year ahead. These are the areas where the ACA will concentrate its pro-active policy initiatives, working alongside other bodies, such as the Institute for Fiscal Studies, where appropriate. There is strong continuity with last year's priorities, which won't be a surprise to members.

This year's '**Top Five**' priorities identified by the Committees are:

1. **A workable new DB Funding Code.**
2. **Climate risk and guidance to members, sponsors and schemes on mitigation**
3. **Simplifying the pension tax regime**
4. **Addressing intergenerational pensions fairness, the savings gap and flexibility**
5. **Promoting equity, diversity & inclusion**

AGM Date: 31 March 2021 at 4pm

Because of the Conference Season in March, we don't have the opportunity for our usual pre-Sessional AGM. Instead, we will be running the **AGM** as a Webinar at **4pm** on **Wednesday 31 March**, with the agenda and papers being circulated a week ahead of the meeting along with a link to join the meeting.

NEXT WEEK'S WEBINARS: ACA Spring 2021 Web Conference Season

Our Spring Conference began last week. Here is a reminder for next week's seminars. Another reminder in a week's time for the final week of the Season will follow. All just in case you've missed the circular issued earlier in February and want to register.

Monday 8 March: 11am

4. *Pensions Schemes Act* – rescheduled APL Joint Meeting topic

Speakers: Deborah Cooper (Mercer) & David Pollard (Wilberforce Chambers)

Co- Chairs: James Auty (ACA Main Committee Member and Mercer) & Hywel Robinson (APL Chair and Clifford Chance)

By the time of the Conference the Bill should be an Act and our two speakers will focus on the key areas that will impact on sponsors, trustees and advisers. As a joint event with the APL we will get insight from both a legal and actuarial aspect.

[To register click this link](#)

APL Members have been invited to attend this session

Monday 8 March: 4pm

5. *To B or not to B (or to C2 or to D2): latest fun and games in relation to the main GMP equalisation methods*

Speaker: Mark Williams (Buck)

Chair: Matt Davis (Hymans Robertson)

This session will provide some latest insight on the current status of the main GMP equalisation methods and how they stack up against each other from an actuarial and practical perspective, encompassing latest developments from the industry GMP Equalisation Working Group.

[To register click this link](#)

Tuesday 9 March: 11am

6. *Diversity & Inclusion – Practical steps for Pension Schemes*

Speaker: Lynda Whitney (Aon)

Chair: Chintan Gandhi (ACA Main Committee Member and Aon)

In pension schemes good diversity and inclusion goes much further than Trustee selection. Applying a D&I lens to many pension activities shows how more equality can be achieved. This session will discuss practical steps including in member communication, actuarial factors and investment manager selection – first remember they are not ‘beauty parades’!

[To register click this link](#)

APL and SPP Members have been invited to attend this session

Tuesday 9 March: 4pm

7. *DC Decumulation: What’s available today, what’s coming, and is it any good?*

Speakers: Tess Page (Mercer) & Esther Hawley (Barnett Waddingham)

Chair: Saye Mkgangama (ACA Main Committee Member and PwC)

Automatic enrolment represents a big step forward for DC pension savers, but how can DC savers best access those savings and navigate the decisions needed to manage their investment and longevity risk in retirement? Tess Page, Mercer, and Esther Hawley, Barnett Waddingham, take a look at current and potential future solutions.

[To register click this link](#)

Wednesday 10 March: 11am

8. *Corporate accounting for pensions – year end 2020 themes*

Speakers: Warren Singer (Mercer) and Narajan Peralta (KPMG)

Chair: Julian Hough (ACA Main Committee Member and XPS Pensions Group)

This session will review evolving market practice on how accounting assumptions are responding to RPI reform and COVID-19 related mortality. It will also discuss other topical accounting issues such as GMP equalisation and common audit questions.

[To register click this link](#)

Thursday 11 March: 11am

9. *The Changing Annuity Market*

Speaker: Mark Ormston (Retirement Line)

Chair: Patrick Bloomfield (ACA Chair and Hymans Robertson)

Since 2017, Retirement Line has been the UK's number 1 pension income intermediary through their annuity sales volumes. In this session, they explore the current annuity market and specifically five key areas:

- Is the annuity market dead?
- Forgotten annuity death benefits
- Enhanced annuities
- Fixed term annuities
- The future of annuities.

[To register click this link](#)

Thursday 11 March: 4pm

10. *Time horizons and the employer covenant: the importance of evaluating sponsor longevity as part of a dynamic analysis*

Speaker: Paul Brice (Grant Thornton UK)

Chair: James Beardmore (ACA Main Committee Member and Hughes Price Walker)

Paul Brice, Head of Pensions Advisory at GT UK, will review the importance of considering sponsor longevity as a key component of an employer covenant assessment; to highlight the professional judgement required in doing so; and to explain the value of a dynamic monitoring approach around sponsor longevity – given the pace of corporate and sectoral change. A paper on the topic as an introduction is [here](#).

[To register click this link](#)

Issued by:

ACA Secretariat, First Floor (129), 40 Gracechurch Street, London EC3V 0BT

020 3102 6761 acahelp@aca.org.uk web: www.aca.org.uk

5 March 2021

Disclaimer

This document is intended to provide general information and guidance only. It does not constitute legal or business advice and should not be relied upon as such. Responding to or acting upon information or guidance in this document does not constitute or imply any client/advisor relationship between the Association of Consulting Actuaries and/or the Association of Consulting Actuaries Limited and any party, nor does the Association accept any liability to any person or organisation relating to the use of such information or guidance.