ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ACTUARIES

ACA NEWS

September 2017

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.

Responses to consultation papers

The ACA has responded to a number of consultations issued by Government and other bodies. **Go to the ACA public site (www.aca.org.uk)** and click on 'Consultation responses' page:

The ACA consultation responses since our previous (May) issue are as follows:

20 September 2017
ACA response to FCA on pension transfer advice *more…*

30 August 2017
ACA response to AE - DB alternative requirement *more…*

18 May 2017
ACA response to the draft Occupational Pension Schemes (Employer Debt) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 *more…*

2017/18 Sessional Meeting programme

The next Sessional meeting at St Ermin's will be held on Thursday 2 November 2017.

An outline plan of the 2017/18 programme appears towards the end of this issue – details may change to keep meetings topical.

Members are reminded that the presentations made at Sessional meetings are usually available the day after the meeting on the ACA website at www.aca.org.uk (Members' login, then go to 'Sessional Meetings' button).

The next issue of *Placard* and IAA and IACA Newsletters

The next issue of our ACA periodical, ***Placard***, will focus on the reform of social care and some of the policy options. Our previous issue focused on the pensions, savings and tax manifesto pledges made by the major political parties ahead of the General Election. The issue also features the ACA's own *Retirement Income and Savings* manifesto, which was published in early May and features on the ACA website ('Publications' page).

All ACA members are also individual members of the International Actuarial Association (IAA). For further details on its work go to their latest (August) ***IAA Newsletter*** at the same 'Publications' page of the ACA website.

IACA Membership

All ACA members are eligible to join the **International Association of Consulting Actuaries (IACA)** by way of a small additional subscription (£33 per year) that can be added at the time of the your IFoA subscription renewal or separately during the year. IACA provides an interactive, global forum for knowledge-sharing and the exchange of relevant information on matters affecting professional responsibilities and best practice. **For further details about IACA, see the last page of this issue of *ACA News*.**

2017 ACA Pension trends survey

The first interim report of the *ACA's 2017 Pension trends survey* was published last week, focusing on results to questions on DB schemes and pension taxation. The survey questionnaire attracted 466 responses from firms over the summer with further reports to be published in October and November featuring the other findings from the survey. **For further details on the first interim report go to** www.aca.org.uk **(Latest News column).**

2018 Gatwick Conference

The next **Gatwick Conference** will be held on **25/26 January 2018**. The programme is already well advanced and will be published in October, featuring the usual plenary sessions, 36 seminars and the Thursday seminars held for Smaller Firms, the Younger Members' Group and the joint IACA/ACA seminar.

Paul Johnson to be guest-of-honour at 2017 Annual Dinner

This year's **Annual Dinner** will be held at **Claridge's** on **Thursday 23 November** when our guest speaker will be the head of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, **Paul Johnson**. Booking forms for the dinner have been circulated to firms' contacts – both tables and individual places are available.

2017 Charity Golf Day

Each year, the **ACA Charity Golf Day** raises over £1,000 for *Get Kids Going!* - a national charity that supports disabled children and young people, up to the age of 26 years, so they can participate in sport. Some 33 golfers participated at this year's day at **West Hill Golf Club**, Surrey, one of the country's 'top 100' courses, on **Monday 11 September 2017**. Winner of the *Felton Cup* – the individual stableford competition, was ACA Chairman, Bob Scott. The winners of the *ACA Cup* – the team stableford competition, was a team from Barnett Waddingham made up of Robert Hawkes, Dan Collins and Matt Tickle. The team Texas competition was won by a team made up of Richard Soldan (LCP), Stuart Southall (Punter Southall) and Sam Roberts (Cartwright Group).

ACA Officers, Main Committee and Committee Chairmen

The ACA Officers and Main Committee for the year 2017/18 are as follows:

Chairman: Bob Scott (LCP)
Honorary Treasurer: Jenny Condron (Mercer)
Honorary Secretary: Phil Simpson (Milliman)
Immediate Past-Chairman: David Fairs (KPMG)
Main Committee: James Auty (JLT), Patrick Bloomfield (Hymans Robertson), Gareth Boyd (Willis Towers Watson), Julian Hough (Xafinity), Steve Leake (Punter Southall), Alex Pocock (Barnett Waddingham), Julie Stothard (Capita), Steven Taylor (PwC), Jonathan Teasdale (Aon Hewitt).

Here is a list of current Committee Chairmen including their email address. A list of each Committee's membership is available on the Members' Only section of the ACA website, 'Committees' page.

Accounting – Warren Singer (Mercer) warren.singer@mercer.com
DC Pensions – Hugh Nolan (Spence & Partners) Hugh_Nolan@spenceandpartners.co.uk
International – Alex Waite (LCP) alex.waite@lcp.uk.com
Investment – Simon Cohen (Spence & Partners) simon_cohen@spenceandpartners.co.uk
Pension Schemes – David Everett (LCP) david.everett@lcp.uk.com
Pensions Taxation – Karen Goldschmidt (LCP) karen.goldschmidt@lcp.uk.com
Professional Affairs – Jenny Condron (Mercer) jenny.condron@mercer.com
Public Relations – Gareth Boyd (Willis Towers Watson) gareth.boyd@willistowerswatson.com
Pensions in Public Service – John Livesey (Mercer) john.livesey@mercer.com
Small Schemes – Nigel Sloam (Nigel Sloam & Co) nigel@nigelsloam.co.uk
Smaller Firms – Paul Bunzl (BBS) paul.bunzl@bbs-actuaries.co.uk

The ACA also has a working group on **Corporate Risk**, chaired by **Aaron Punwani** (LCP) aaron.punwani@lcp.uk.com and a **Younger Members' Group**, chaired by Chintan Gandhi (Aon Hewitt) chintan.gandhi@aonhewitt.com

ACA Office: change of address

Please note that since the last issue, the ACA office address has re-located to:

Association of Consulting Actuaries
Second Floor (203)
40 Gracechurch Street
London EC3V 0BT
Telephone: 020 3102 6761 (unchanged)
Email: acahelp@aca.org.uk (unchanged)

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25 September 2017

2017/18 St Ermin's Sessional Meeting Programme

Date	Committee	Topic(s)
2 November 2017	DC / wider fields	Latest developments in DC investments (including ESG, default funds, pre-retirement phase and illiquid assets) Equity release mortgages as an asset class
13 December 2017	Pensions / Taxation	Reaction to budget PLSA DB Working Group paper
11 January 2018	DC / pensions	Legislative developments – Green / White Paper; State Pension Age, Auto-enrolment review DB to DC transfers including outcome of FCA consultation on advice and Freedom & choice, nearly 3 years on
22 February 2018	APL joint meeting	Topical subjects including recent court cases, legislation
22 March 2018	AGM / wider fields / research	Developments in SSASs, SIPPS and scams (provisional) Longevity trends? Healthcare? Big data?
26 April 2018	Pensions / Professional affairs / Accounting	Regulatory issues – e.g. FRC, IASB, FCA, TPR, IFoA developments of interest to consulting actuaries
24 May 2018	International / Public service pensions	Developments in selected overseas countries e.g. USA, Holland, Switzerland. Perhaps something on LGPS
28 June 2018	Pensions / DC / Investment	Dashboard, Master Trusts, Communication, giving advice……

Topics are subject to review reflecting topicality and, for example, views on consultations ahead of ACA submissions

About the International Association of Consulting Actuaries – IACA

There are many regional actuarial associations with consultants, some of which even have members outside the country of domicile. There is only one association, however, that has the global reach to develop and bring together consulting actuaries across the world…IACA**.** In the interests of strengthening links between consulting actuaries in the UK and around the world, Cathy Lyn, Chair of the International Association of Consulting Actuaries (IACA), has asked us to circulate a one-pager covering what IACA is, and the benefits of becoming an IACA member. You can become an IACA member by ticking the relevant box as part of your IFoA subscription renewal.

Benefits of joining IACA

1. **Information**

IACA provides an interactive, global forum for knowledge-sharing and the exchange of relevant information on matters affecting professional responsibilities and best practice. In the IACA network, your opinions are highly valued, and you can look forward to engaging discussions and the sharing of not only technical points of view, but also critical, yet often overlooked, views on topics such as professionalism, ethics and communication.

2. **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**

IACA's intention to run a series of webinars throughout the year will offer members low-cost, convenient opportunities for CPD. The global webinars will be geared towards facilitating the sharing of international views and approaches to best practice on all matters relevant to consulting actuaries. Offering the convenience of being able to engage with an international collection of consulting minds, without having to travel, is unique to IACA.

3. **Networking**

Given IACA's global reach, there has always been a strong focus to build and share new networks, as well as enhance professional relationships with a wide variety of individuals spanning various jurisdictions and practice areas. There are numerous opportunities for mentorship and learning from each other's experiences.

4. **Recognition**

There are rewarding opportunities for professional and personal recognition at IACA events through prizes for service and outstanding research or publications.

5. **Business Opportunities**

IACA serves as a bridge for consultants to expand their businesses by creating access to international markets for new and exciting consulting opportunities. One of IACA's objectives is to instil in the consulting actuary the flexibility to adapt to different situations based on increasing extra-regional knowledge, and to take full advantage of global opportunities.

Member Testimonials

"It has been a humbling and challenging experience that has given me great exposure to how the profession is run in different parts of the world, and an opportunity to grow my leadership skills on a global platform. Being a younger member of the actuarial profession, I am looking forward to learning and serving through IACA." **(Kudzai Chigiji, South Africa)**

"I can clearly see how the associations and personal connections I have made through the years in IACA have helped me grow in many personal and professional ways and have provided many business opportunities." **(Douglas Carey, USA)**

"IACA's focus on 'softer' career skills such as effective communication, business etiquette, mentorship and volunteerism gives a refreshing scope for personal and professional development, regardless of practice area." **(Nikhil Asnani, Jamaica).**

Message from the TPR: 21st century trusteeship – key messages about good governance for professional advisers

On 18 September 2017, The Pensions Regulator (TPR) launched a new campaign to protect workplace pension savers by driving up the standards of governance across pension schemes.

The campaign, called **21st Century Trusteeship – raising the standards of governance**, is part of TPR's commitment to support schemes by being clearer and more directive. It outlines how people involved in running schemes can take action to meet expected standards and what action TPR will take if they don't improve.

Are your trustee clients aware of their responsibilities?

Trustees are responsible for managing schemes effectively with the support of their employers, advisers and service providers. However, recent research from The Pensions Regulator (TPR) shows that many schemes aren't meeting the expected standards.

TPR has launched a communications programme on how to manage a scheme effectively, starting with the focus on the value of good governance, providing practical tools to help, and also helping those involved in running a scheme understand the consequences of failing to ensure good governance.
To find out more about how you can help your clients understand the benefits of good governance, visit TPR's website.

Pension scheme governance – help your clients get the basics right

As a trusted adviser, your role is very important in achieving and maintaining good governance of pension schemes by helping and supporting your trustee clients.

Running a pension scheme can be challenging for trustees, who have limited time to dedicate to their role. But it's important to get the basics right – this is crucial to achieving good member outcomes.

Recent research carried out by The Pensions Regulator (TPR) shows many schemes are not meeting the standards of governance they expect.

Make sure your clients know what they need to do. If they fail to do the basics, TPR will take action, so don't let them risk a fine. TPR has information and guidance to help them.

Pension schemes and trusteeship – Why is good governance important?

Good governance is essential to achieving good member outcomes, helping trustees to minimise risks and maximise opportunities for schemes and members. Investing in good governance will likely save time and money in the long run. Another part of good governance is getting the basics right. Trustees and those running a scheme need to complete the scheme return on time, pay the levy on time, produce a good quality chair's statement (as a trustee of a DC scheme), or a good quality scheme valuation (as a trustee of a DB scheme).

The Pensions Regulator (TPR) has found many schemes aren't meeting the expected standards, and will take action where schemes are failing to meet the basic requirements, so make sure your clients are clear about what needs to be done.

TPR has information, guidance and tools on their website that can help you and your clients get to grips with the essential principles of good governance.