CURRENT ISSUES IN COMPANY ACCOUNTING

ACA Members' Gatwick Conference – 6 February 2015

Summary

This session considers some topical issues arising under international and UK accounting standards during 2014/15:

- Introduction of revised UK standards with effect from 1 January 2015
  - What are the key changes compared with FRS 17?
  - What areas of uncertainty remain and what issues need considering?

- When can a defined benefit pension surplus be recognised as an asset under IAS 19?
  - Why is it a difficult question?
  - Which unilateral powers of UK plan trustees are relevant?
  - How is the IASB trying to provide further clarification based on its meeting in January 2015?

- Split discount rates
  - Why might it be actuarially preferable to use a different discount rate for past service liabilities and for service cost?
  - Why aren't split discount rates more common?

- What changes could be made in future to IAS 19 given IFRS research projects being carried out during 2015?
  - Discount rate research – is IAS 19 consistent with other IFRSs?
  - Post-employment benefits research (the question of how to deal with cash balance plans has become much broader)

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