



GORDON POLLOCK ELECTED NEXT ACA CHAIRMAN

London - 22 February 2002 - Gordon Pollock, a Worldwide Partner with consulting actuaries, William M Mercer, has been elected Chairman of the Association of Consulting Actuaries (ACA), and will take office from 1 June 2002.

Aged 49, Pollock succeeds Mike Arnold, senior partner of consulting actuaries, Hymans Robertson, whose two-year term of office as Chairman comes to an end on 31 May. Pollock is a Fellow of the Faculty of Actuaries and joined Duncan C Fraser in their Edinburgh office in 1976 prior to its merger with William M Mercer in 1986. He has been the ACA's Honorary Treasurer since 1998.

Pollock started his career with Scottish Widows in 1974, before moving into consulting. In 1989 he moved from Scotland to London to manage Mercer's City office. Today, he is a member of Mercer's Global Retirement Practice Group, which has overall responsibility for pension and actuarial consulting in the firm.

"It is a great honour to be elected Chairman of the Association, but I also take on the role at an immensely challenging time. UK pensions, where the majority of our members advise, are in a state of flux, with many organisations reviewing their occupational arrangements because of cost and regulatory pressures. Along with other trade and professional bodies, we need to give clear pointers to

Government as to where essential and urgent reforms are necessary, and what the priorities should be, if we are to see private pension savings grow.

“Also, at such times, the ACA and our members need to stress and give guidance on the importance of looking to the longer-term rather than short-term fixes. The recent past is littered with well-intentioned “fixes” that have led to the current difficulties.

“I am also keen to see more of our members active in non pension areas, where increasingly actuarial skills are seen to have value in areas such as corporate risk evaluation and healthcare planning.”

Welcoming his successor, Mike Arnold added:

"Gordon Pollock will make an excellent successor. He is widely regarded and has the profile in the profession that is needed to lead the Association through a time of immense change and where there are big issues to be addressed across the breadth of our members' activities, notably in pensions, life and general insurance."

The ACA, which celebrated its 50th Anniversary last year, continues to expand rapidly and has over 1300 members working in over 80 firms. It is the largest national grouping of consulting actuaries in Europe.

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