



All Party Parliamentary Group on
Insurance &
Financial Services

News Bulletin

No 24 June 2009

Group looks to the future as sector faces huge changes

THE GROUP has always been one of the most active all party groups and this level of activity is set to be sustained as the financial services sector faces up to some significant regulatory and commercial challenges over the next few years.

This will all take place against the background of major political change with a General Election within the next year and possible reform of the House of Lords, both of which could significantly change the composition of the group.

The group will have to find a new chairman as John Greenway announced two and a half years ago that he would not be re-standing following the redistribution of his current seat in North Yorkshire. John has chaired the group since 1992. Similarly, joint secretary Sir John Butterfill announced sometime ago that he was not seeking re-election. More re-

cently, one of the other joint secretaries, Labour MP Jim Cousins, decided to retire at the next election.

With 41 MPs and 26 peers currently members of the group, there is significant interest in Parliament in engaging with the insurance and retail financial services markets. Just a glance at the programme and the range of organisations that want to meet the group demonstrates that there is similarly plenty of interest outside Parliament in using the group as a vehicle for communicating with policymakers, the principal purpose for which it was established in 1991.

The group is already planning a busy autumn session which will be kicked off by *Post Magazine's* annual Parliamentary reception which started in 1989 and is now hosted in conjunction with its Business Leaders' Forum.

APPG to meet Financial Services Authority and Financial Services Competitiveness Group

THE NEXT MONTH will see the group meet two organisations set to play a major part in re-shaping the UK financial services sector, the Financial Services Authority and the Financial Services Competitiveness Group.

The FSA will obviously be at the centre of the shake-up of regulation follow-



Darling: co-chair of Competitiveness group which reported recently

ing the massive shocks to the financial system at the end of last year. In its first meeting with the group since then, it will be looking at the implications for the regulation of UK retail markets.

The Financial Services Competitiveness Group, which the Chancellor of the Exchequer co-chairs with former Citi chairman Sir Win Bischoff, recently published a report on the changing face of financial services in the UK which made a series of recommendations. These stressed that there must be a clear direction for the UK international financial services industry both in terms of the wider UK economy and in working with other countries. It also highlighted the need for more work to be done to reaffirm the UK's reputation for competence, reliability and trustworthiness.

Group hears pleas for financial capability and greater professionalism

TWO OF THE KEY professional bodies in the financial services sector met the group this month to explain the contributions they are making to developing the market and raising standards.

The Chartered Insurance Institute discussed its support for an independent professional standards board for the retail financial services sector which would draw the majority of its members from outside the market, which it sees as a key step to restoring confidence. Without confidence, the CII argued, many people would continue to shun the industry and its products.

Promoting "financial capability" was the key theme of the IFS School of Finance's presentation. Its initiatives have been aimed at improving understanding of personal finance issues among young people with some, such as the Student Investor Challenge, reaching almost 40,000 students in 1000 schools.

Chairman: John Greenway MP

Deputies: Baroness Turner of Camden,

Vince Cable MP, Lord Hunt of Wirral

Hon Secs: Sir John Butterfill MP,

Jim Cousins MP, Edward Leigh MP

Technical Consultants

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS 

Contact: David Morey, 020 7804 2684

david.morey@uk.pwc.com

Administration



Contact: David Worsfold,

Group Editorial Services Director, Incisive Media

020 7316 9282

david.worsfold@incisivemedia.com