

CSFI

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The impact of the financial/economic crisis on company pension schemes. A round-table discussion with Joanne Segars (NAPF), Clive Fortes (Hymans Robertson) and Barry Riley. To be held on Monday, June 1, 2009, from 12:30-2:15pm.

The defined benefit corporate pension scheme is under pressure – and, where schemes are still open, it continues to place pressure on the long-term health of the firm. Even defined contribution and ‘hybrid’ schemes often seem like lead weights that weigh British industry down. Increasingly, finance directors and treasurers find their lives dominated by what are essentially legacy obligations – a point made forcefully by the current problems of BT.

Is there an answer? Can the corporate pensions issue be “derisked”? And, if so, within what time frame?

This is the kind of issue that can turn a grown man’s bowels to jelly, but it is one that must be faced. I am, therefore, delighted that (thanks to my colleague, Jane Fuller, who – as a beneficiary of Pearson’s plan – can look on the pensions issue with more equanimity than me) we have been able to put together an expert panel to kick off the discussion:

- Joanne Segars has been chief executive of the NAPF since October 2006. Before joining the NAPF, she was head of pensions and savings at the ABI – and before that, at the TUC.
- Clive Fortes is a partner and head of corporate consulting at Hymans Robertson. He acts as independent adviser to a number of companies and pension plan sponsors.
- Barry Riley is a former financial editor and investment editor of the *Financial Times* – of which (like Jane) he is now a pensioner. In 2008, he published *Pensions: From crisis to opportunity* (Thomson Reuters).

If you or a colleague would like to join us, please let us know by emailing Sophie@csfi.org.uk or by telephoning 020 7493 0173. As usual, wine and sandwiches will be provided.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew Hilton