

# GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS

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## September 2016

### Progress report on measures to reduce misconduct risk from FSB

The Financial Stability Board has published a second progress [report](#) setting out details about work to address misconduct in the financial sector. This covers activities co-ordinated by the FSB and the timelines for actions, and addresses the following issues:

- ▶ The role of incentives in reducing misconduct
- ▶ Improving global standards of conduct in FICC markets
- ▶ Reforming financial benchmarks

A further progress report is expected ahead of the G20 summit in July 2017.

*Financial Stability Board, 1 September 2016*

### Standard initial margin model launched

The ISDA has [announced](#) the launch of the ISDA Standard Initial Margin Model which is an industry standard that has already been adopted by market participants to calculate initial margin for non-cleared derivatives trades.

*ISDA, 31 August 2016*

### Pensions advice allowance consultation from HM Treasury

The HM Treasury has published a [consultation](#) on introducing a pensions advice allowance. This will allow people with a defined contribution pension to take a tax free sum from their pension to redeem against the cost of financial advice, in order to encourage more people to seek financial advice pre-retirement. The deadline for comment on the proposed design of the allowance is 25 October 2016.

*HM Treasury, 31 August 2016*

### Registration authorities list published by GLEIF

The GLEIF has published its registration authorities [list](#) for the first time. This contains details of 652 business registers and give a unique code to each register. UK registers include Companies House and the Financial Services Register.

*Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation, 31 August 2016*

### ESMA reports on risk outlook for EU securities markets

The European Securities and Markets Authority has published its latest risk [report](#) finding that the overall assessment of risk levels in EU markets under its remit remains unchanged.

*ESMA, 30 August 2016*

### IA: revised approach to statement of principles

The Investment Association published a [webpage](#) setting out its current approach on 26 August 2016. This updates the statement of principles published in April 2015 and includes the following changes, following on from member feedback:

- ▶ Signatories to the principles no longer need to publish statements on their websites

- ▶ The IA will no longer maintain a list of signatories
- ▶ The statement of principles should be a useful framework for firms when reviewing their values

*The Investment Association, 26 August 2016*

### CPMI and IOSCO second consultation on harmonisation of unique product identifier

The Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures (CPMI) and the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) have [issued](#) a second consultative report on harmonisation of the unique product identifier (UPI). Comments on the second consultative report can be made by 30 September 2016.

*CPMI / IOSCO, 18 August 2016*

### ABI publishes pension freedom data – April 2015-2016

The Association of British Insurers have published full year [statistics](#) since the pension freedom and choice reforms were introduced in April 2015, finding the majority of savers are taking a sensible approach. They have also published statistics which show the percentages withdrawn from pension pots and their age groups.

*ABI, 15 August 2016*

### EC Implementing Regulation establishes list of critical benchmarks

The European Commission Implementing Regulation establishing a list of critical benchmarks used in financial markets has been [published](#) in the Official Journal of the EU. The Implementing Regulation enters into force on the day after publication in the OJ and specifies the EURIBOR as a critical benchmark.

*EC, 12 August 2016*

### BoE working group on sterling risk-free reference rates - June 2016 minutes

Minutes from the Bank of England working group [meeting](#) on sterling risk-free reference rates (RFRs) held on 30 June 2016 have been published.

*Bank of England, 11 August 2016*

### Hidden fund fees called into question by IA

Research [published](#) by the IA has dismissed claims there are hidden fees within funds which can make the cost to investors several times higher than the headline figures. Ahead of the launch of a public consultation on a new disclosure code later this year, the IA has suggested such fears over fees may be the "Loch Ness Monster of investment" with zero evidence of their existence being found.

*The Investment Association, 9 August 2016*

### FCA Interim report on asset management market study delayed

The FCA have announced that an [interim report](#) on the asset management market study will now be delayed until the fourth quarter of 2016. The report is currently being finalised and will set out areas that raise concern and those that don't, as found by the market study which aimed to assess whether competition is working effectively in asset management. Further discussions, roundtables and bilateral meetings with stakeholders are likely to take place once the interim report has been published.

*FCA, 03 August 2016*

### Industry assets reach a 12-month high despite June volatility

The Investment Association has published monthly [statistics](#) for June, finding funds under management rose to £948 billion.

*Investment Association, 2 August 2016*

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