

Annual Research Report 2001

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1 LIST OF ALL RESEARCH GROUPS AND WORKING PARTIES ACTIVE IN 2001

FACULTY RESEARCH GROUPS

Contact: David Hare (tel: 0131 245 0632, email: David_Hare@standardlife.com)

On-going Working Parties

Corporate Diversity and the Provision of Financial Services
Health and Care Research Group
Investment Research Group
Mortality Statistics Research Group
Pensions Research Group

Completed Working Parties

Bonus and Valuation Research Group

Discontinued Working Parties

International Research Group

FINANCE AND INVESTMENT BOARD WORKING PARTIES

Contact: Peter Dingwall (tel: 020 7632 2136, email: peterd@actuaries.org.uk)

Planned Working Parties

Applications of Equity Portfolio Management Indexation

On-going Working Parties

Advances in Portfolio Risk Management

Applications of Defined Contribution Pension Scheme Strategy

Applications of Derivatives

Applications of Investment and Taxation

Commercial Real Estate Indices

Investment Management Selection

Measuring and Monitoring the Effectiveness of Asset Allocation in the Life and

Pension Industries

Quantitative Techniques

Really Long Term Investment Products

Risk Mitigation for Pension Funds/SIP and Under-Funding

Sterling Corporate Bond Index

The Effects of Buybacks on Investment Trust Discounts

The Future Demands of Equities

The Role of Hedge Funds

Value Measurement Investment

Value Measurement Steering Group

Completed Working Parties

Applications of Bond Portfolio Management

Applications of Financial Theory in Investment Management

Applications of Institutional Investment Topics

Applications of Performance, Portfolio Risk and Return

Applications of Stochastic Investment Models

Mortgage Prepayment Risk

GENERAL INSURANCE BOARD WORKING PARTIES

Contact: Richard Winter (tel: 020 7334 6225, email: richard.winter@prudential.co.uk)

Planned Working Parties

Draft GN15 Equivalent

General Insurance Investment Strategies

Professional Indemnity and D&O - Pricing and Current Issues

State of the Art Pricing

On-going Working Parties

APH Update and Issues

Applying the New Tax Regulations in Practice

Aviation Insurance

Cost of the Compensation Culture

Definition and Interpretation of Terminology in Common Use

European Weather Derivatives

Fair Value Accounting

Financial Condition Reporting

House Insurance

Investment Strategies for General Insurance Companies

Measuring Customer Value

Operational Risk

Political Risk Insurance

Portfolio Transfers

Pricing, Management and Control of Extreme Events

Reinsurance Commutations

Reliance on Advice from Other Professionals

Stochastic Reserving Methods

Update Claims Reserving Model

Why Insurers Fail

Completed Working Parties

Calculating Premium Monitoring / Rate Change Indices
Structured Settlements - Lessons for the UK from Overseas

Discontinued Working Parties

Capital Allocation

LIFE BOARD WORKING PARTIES

Contact: Maria Singleton (tel: 020 7632 2173, email: marias@actuaries.org.uk)

On-going Working Parties

Customers' Interests

Customer Value

Life Assurance Value Measurement

Life Office Taxation

Management of Closed Funds

Product Reviews

Selection in the Annuity Market

Use of Derivatives in Life Assurance

Completed Working Parties

Fair Valuation

Financial Condition Reports

Regulatory Capital for Financial Services

Transparency of With-Profits Business

Discontinued Working Parties

Value at Risk

Virtual Life Offices

PENSIONS BOARD WORKING PARTIES

Contact: Georgina Ivers (tel: 01865 268235, email: georgini@actuaries.org.uk)

Planned Working Parties

Benefit Design

Risk Benefits

On-going Working Parties

Retirement Income Reform

Stochastic Pensions Valuations and the Assessment of Funding Risk

Discontinued Working Parties

Investment Strategies for Money Purchase Schemes

SOCIAL POLICY BOARD WORKING PARTIES

Contact: Martin Hewitt (tel: 020 7632 2185, email: martinh@actuaries.org.uk)

Planned Working Parties

Genetics and Insurance - Issues for Social Policy

The Interface Between the Public and Private Sectors in Healthcare

The Potential for Insurance Companies Developing Provisions in Care Rather than Cash

The Role of Actuaries in Healthcare

On-going Working Parties

Consumer Risk Medical Advances Pension Provision Taskforce Retirement Options

Completed Working Parties

Critical Illness Cover - the Future

HEALTH AND CARE COMMITTEE - Health Services Group (leader: John Coss)

On-going Working Parties

UK Vaccination Programme - Risk and Reward

Completed Working Parties

The NHS Plan

Discontinued Working Parties

Health Data Charter Measuring Health Systems The 'Healthcare Management Actuary'

HEALTH AND CARE COMMITTEE - IP/CI (leader: Sue Elliott)

Planned Working Parties

IP - Trends

On-going Working Parties

CI - Robustness of Definition

IP - Internal Risk Factors

IP - Trends by Cause (Terminations)

HEALTH AND CARE COMMITTEE – Long Term Care Group (leader: lan Sissions)

On-going Working Parties

Reserving/Valuation

Discontinued Working Parties

Experience Analysis Projections

HEALTH AND CARE COMMITTEE – Multi-disciplinary Group

Planned Working Parties

Healthcare - Related Employee Benefits

HEALTH AND CARE COMMITTEE – PMI Group (leader: Neil Hilary)

Planned Working Parties

Health Inflation Index Pricing Small Group PMI

On-going Working Parties

Health Data

2 THE ORGANISATION OF UK ACTUARIAL RESEARCH

This section describes how research is currently organised within the UK actuarial profession. In addition to the research described below, the Continuous Mortality Investigation Bureau conducts and publishes research in respect of its work on the preparation of standard mortality and morbidity tables. Further information about any aspect of actuarial research can be obtained from the Secretary to the Research Steering Committee, at Napier House.

2.1 The Research Committees

2.1.1 Research Steering Committee

The Research Steering Committee co-ordinates research activity on behalf of the Faculty and Institute, reporting through the ECPD Board. Key roles of the Research Steering Committee are:

- to encourage and commission further research with an emphasis on research of a practical nature that is expected to be of value to a significant proportion of the profession;
- to provide practical support for researchers, including advice on publication;
- to assist researchers and others by ensuring an adequate exchange of information between those involved in research activities and/or those interested in the results of such research;
- to co-ordinate research, try to avoid duplication of effort and to highlight gaps;
- to ensure that the resources available for research are used effectively;
- to liaise with overseas actuarial societies, professional bodies, research funding organisations and others on research matters;
- to administer and monitor funding through the profession's annual research grants awards programme and the Memorial Education and Research Fund.

2.1.2 The Faculty Research Committee

The Faculty Research Committee also reports to the ECPD Board as well as to the Faculty Council and oversees the operation of a number of standing Research Groups based in Scotland. The Committee sets the broad terms of reference for these groups and monitors their progress and can form further groups. The Research Groups provide a vehicle to allow individual members to participate in research projects which they could not undertake individually. Each Group aims to produce work which can eventually be published for discussion at a Faculty Sessional meeting, Student Society Meeting or other forum. Participation in these Groups is a valuable part of the continuing education of members, particularly younger Fellows. Further details of these Groups are given in Section 4.

2.2 Practice Boards

Identifying potential areas of research and instigating research activity is primarily the responsibility of the Practice Boards. Currently those responsible for research by subject area are:

- Finance and Investment Board;
- General Insurance Research Organising Committee (GIRO);
- Life Research Committee;
- Pensions Technical Support and Research Committee;
- Social Policy Board.

Voluntary Support

Research working parties established by the Practice Boards have historically relied on the voluntary efforts of individual members of the profession. In some cases this means that there is considerable support from the member's firm whereas in other cases the work is carried out in the member's own time. In either case, the role of volunteers is vital to both the organisation of research and in its undertaking.

2.3 Research Staff

Staff support for the profession's research activities is provided by the Chief Education Executive's (CEE) Department and through the Board secretaries. During the last five years more staff time has been allocated to research in recognition of its growing importance for the profession.

The role of the Secretary to the Research Steering Committee is to assist the Committee in the formulation of an effective policy for the promotion, co-ordination and promulgation of research and to help to ensure that the policy is put into practice. In addition the Secretary oversees the annual research grants programme, the maintenance of the on-line research database and the production of an annual research report. This work is supported by a 40% time allocation from one of the CEE Department's Administrators.

Secretaries to the Practice Boards' Research Committees assist these committees to implement their research programmes and also work with the Secretary to the Research Steering Committee to co-ordinate research activities. Contact details are included in the relevant sections of this report.

Some of the time of the Staff Actuaries is also allocated to the co-ordination of research activities. Staff members do not undertake research in this role.

This structure has been devised to provide links with the range of activities carried out, both within the Practice Boards and across the profession through the ECPD Board.

2.4 Research Funding

Funding for research within the UK actuarial profession is currently provided through the annual research grants programme and the Memorial Education and Research Fund (MERF). From 2002 the profession is collaborating with the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) on grants under their programme for financial mathematics.

There are currently two sources of funding for research. The Memorial Education and Research Fund, which is an amalgamation of various endowments and other grants, has a capital value of around £110,000. Details of awards made from the Memorial Educational and Research Fund since 1998 are given in Section 3.

Since 1996 the Education and CPD Board, with the agreement of FIMC, has allocated part of its annual budget to the funding of actuarial research. The responsibility for recommending applications for funding of projects to the ECPD Board lies with the Research Steering Committee, which administers the grants programme on behalf of both the Faculty and Institute of Actuaries.

The principal criteria applied by the Research Steering Committee in awarding grants are:

- the research is of practical relevance and likely to be of value to a significant proportion of the profession;
- the proposal provides value for money;
- the research results in a paper or other deliverable that will be promulgated widely.

It is the aim of the Research Steering Committee to encourage Practice Boards to sponsor applications for funds in order to ensure that a proportion of research is driven directly by the needs of practising actuaries. The Committee is keen to encourage research in the application of existing actuarial techniques to new areas as well as the development of new ideas in mainstream actuarial work.

Funds totalling approximately £295,000 have been awarded since 1996, enabling the profession to support 39 small short-term projects of actuarial relevance. Details of the projects supported are set out in Section 3. The vast majority of the funding has been directed at universities and those engaged primarily in more theoretical work. In its policy for awarding research grants the Research Steering Committee aims to encourage an effective bridge between the development of theoretical techniques and their application to solve practical problems.

It is hoped that it will be possible to make a similar level of funds available awards during the 2002/2003 Session although some of the funding has already been committed to the collaboration with the EPSRC.

Further information can be obtained from the Secretary to the Research Steering Committee, at Napier House.

3 RESEARCH GRANTS

3.1 Research Grants Awarded In 2001

2001			
Project title	Applicant(s)	Award (£)	
Appraisal of the methodology and accuracy of commercial property indices	Prof P M Booth	11,500	
Risk equalisation in Irish private health insurance	Mr G Colgan	5,000	
New approaches to annuitisation: Optimal asset allocation strategies in defined contribution pensions post-retirement and comparisons with investment-linked annuities	Prof S Haberman	7,500	
Incorporating risk in the analysis of PFI/PPP projects	Mr W Rodney	12,500	
Compilation of a database of UK gilt prices	Prof A D Wilkie	4,350	

Memorial Education and Research Fund (MERF)

2001 MERF research awards:

• £1,000 to Yung-Ming Shiu for a paper on 'Identify factors of dynamic financial analysis in the UK general insurance industry'

The MERF prize was not awarded at the General Insurance Conference in 2001.

3.2 Previous Grants Awarded Between 1996 and 2000

The following tables summarise the projects which have received funding from the Faculty and Institute since the establishment of the research grants programme in 1996.

2000			
Project title	Applicant(s)	Award (£)	
Bayesian networks for classification in insurance	Dr R Cowell	11,000	
Modelling risk by postcode area in general insurance: further research including the consideration of extreme events	Dr M J Dixon, Prof R Verrall	11,500	
Penalised goodness of fit functions for inference	Prof D Hand, Ms V Vinciotti	6,500	
Stochastic pension valuations and the assessment of the funding risk	Prof S Haberman	7,440	
Interest rate modelling using genetic programming	Dr G Kennedy	10,000	
Asset-liability matching in complete and incomplete market situations	Dr R K Parchure	5,000	
Reserving for Guaranteed Annuity Options: A Stochastic Simulation Approach	Miss S Yang, Prof H Waters, Prof D Wilkie	8,180	
General Insurance Working Parties	General Insurance Board	1,000	

1999			
Project title	Applicant(s)	Award (£)	
Regulation of Pension Provision in the European Union	D Cooper	11,400	
Rating by Postcode Area in General Insurance	M J Dixon, R Verrall	11,400	
An assessment of the suitability of the MFR using deterministic and stochastic scenario testing techniques	I D Wright, S Haberman, Z Khorasanee	11,400	
Financial Companies in the Stock Market, 1825-1962: A Quantitative Study	C Green, P Maggioni	4,000	
An integrated approach to aspects of the Wilkie Model	A D Wilkie, M Omram, A S Macdonald	10,000	
Charting the Frontier Between Actuarial Science and Mathematical Finance	S Jacka, J E Kennedy, H P Wynn	9,202	
General Insurance Working Parties	General Insurance Board	2,000	

1998			
Project title	Applicant(s)	Award (£)	
Frailty models and the age and time dynamics of mortality	S Haberman	9,000	
An investigation of the solvency risks of insurers with health insurance	R G Chadburn, B Rickayzen, S	9,000	
liabilities specifically PHI using a stochastic simulation approach	Haberman		
Development of market valuation techniques for pension funds	A J Cairns	9,000	
Actuarial Applications of Econometric Tools	S F Whelan	4,000	
General Insurance Working Parties	General Insurance Board	1,000	

1997			
Project Title	Applicant(s)	Award (£)	
Underwriting and Alzheimer's Disease	A S Macdonald, H R Waters	10,000	
Designing a practical model to examine Long-Term costs in Great Britain	B Rickayzen, S Haberman, P M Booth	8,000	
Applying actuarial techniques to the valuation of implicit options in freehold property	P M Booth, R Gerrard	8,500	
Testing the Sensitivity of Model Life office simulation results to variations in asset model structure	R G Chadburn, P P Huber	7,000	
Improvements in mortality at higher ages: prospects and financial implications	R G Thomas, J Presnell, N G Rhodes	5,000	
To investigate the analysis of claims on an individual claim basis, using Bayesian methods	R Verrall	5,500	
The Construction of International Bond Yield Indices	A J G Cairns	6,000	

1996			
Project title	Applicant(s)	Award (£)	
Investment strategy for defined contribution pension schemes	Z Khorasanee	10,000	
Optimal funding of defined benefit pension schemes	S Haberman	10,000	
Non-linear time series models for actuarial use	R G Thomas, H Tong	7,480	
Statistical analysis of individual offices' phi data and some financial consequences of these analyses	H R Waters, A A Korabinski, I D Currie	7,000	
Analysis of credit and default risk on bank lending and mortgages	P M Booth, R Verrall, I Allan	7,000	
Investigation of models for the term structure of interest rates	A J G Cairns	6,000	
Reducing the resilience reserve of a life office	G Kennedy, M Kerr	3,000	

4 FACULTY RESEARCH GROUPS

There are several standing research groups within the Faculty Research Committee.

If you are interested in participation in one of these research groups, or have another topic to suggest, please contact the Chairman of the Faculty Research Committee;

David Hare (tel: 0131 245 0632, e-mail:David_Hare@standardlife.com).

Corporate Diversity and the Provision of Financial Services - On-going

Expected outcome

Paper to be presented to the Faculty, Feb 2002 and to the Institute, May 2002.

Progress to date

Paper in progress.

Membership

Chairman: Hare, David (David_Hare@standardlife.com)

Other members: Guijarro, Philippe

Health and Care Research Group - On-going

Objectives

Aim of project: To identify the balance between the provision of public and private healthcare in Europe and throughout the rest of the world.

Terms of reference: Research health and care areas including health insurance, income protection, critical illness and long term care insurance.

Expected outcome

A short research paper for presentation at a Faculty sessional meeting.

Progress to date

Limited, any additional help would be appreciated.

Membership

Chairman: Smart, Fraser (fsmart@btinternet.com)

Other members: McCarthy, Rod; Jack, Martin; Paton, Brian; Walker, Alistair; Meldrum, Neil

Investment Research Group - On-going

Objectives

Aim of project: Investigating the effects of buybacks on investment trust discounts.

Terms of reference: To summarise the various behavioural finance theories, outline their potential practical applications and their relevance to actuaries working in Investment.

Expected outcome

A paper for the Investment Conference, July 2002. Paper for Publication.

Progress to date

A paper 'Investor Sentiment and the Closed-End Fund puzzle' was presented to the Investment Conference, June 2000. A study on the Global Growth Sector has provided reasonable results and will be extended in to other sectors.

Membership

Chairman: Moretta, Brian (brian@scottish-value.co.uk)

Other members: Adams, Andy; Bowie, David; Cresswell, Paul: Devlin, Frank; Macpherson,

Roddy

Mortality Statistics Research Group - On-going

Objectives

Aim of project: The Group is now considering further research with a view to producing a paper on The Review of Health Economics.

Terms of reference: The group is currently discussing topics for future work; suggestions include genetics, long-term care insurance, adverse selection in life insurance, mortality improvements in old age and the impact of drug-resistant infectious disease.

Expected outcome

The group is now considering further research with a view to producing a paper for a future Sessional Meeting.

Progress to date

A paper on comparative mortality trends was discussed at International Congress and has been published in BAJ. The group has withdrawn its paper on lapse rates from BAJ, as it has lost its topicality during the four years of the refereeing process.

Membership

Chairman: New Chairman to be appointed (a.s.macdonald@ma.hw.ac.uk) Other members: Cairns, Andrew; Gwilt, Philip; Miller, Keith; Pollock, John

Pensions Research Group - On-going

Objectives

Terms of reference: This group is considering various areas of potential research; including the ambition of stripping away the mumbo-jumbo that exists in the pensions arena.

Progress to date

A discussion was held with the FASS about the group's latest paper on future pension scheme design, December 2001. A paper is now being prepared for the Sessional Meeting in February 2002.

Membership

Chairman: Fleming, Donald

Other members: Bell, Colin; Gourlay, Keith; Taylor, Ronnie

Bonus and Valuation Research Group - Completed 2001

Objectives

Aim of project: Provide sample calculations of fair values in line with IASC proposals.

Terms of reference: Work with FV working party to identify issues in implementing proposals in practice.

Expected outcome

Paper outlining sample calculations and issues for simple policies. Aim to incorporate the paper into the FVWP sessional paper as an Appendix in November 2001.

Progress to date

Terms of reference agreed, resource identified, paper complete. Paper outlining sample calculations and issues for simple policies. Aim to incorporate the paper into the FVWP sessional paper as an Appendix in November 2001. The group is currently considering topics and actively seeking new members.

Paper can be found at:

www.actuaries.org.uk/sessional/sm0111.pdf

Membership

Chairman: Priestley, Richard (rpriestley@aegon.co.uk)

Other members: Abbink, Michel; Mills, Steve; Morrison, Douglas; van Beek, Patrick; Wilson,

Mike

International Research Group - Discontinued 2001

Objectives

Aim of project: To consider aspects of international insurance which are of interest to the Faculty and its members.

Terms of reference: Considering the attractiveness of certain European and Asian markets to UK insurers in the context of a globalising and consolidating financial services marketplace.

Progress to date

This group has produced a paper on the attractiveness of Germany and India to UK insurers in the context of a globalising and consolidating financial services marketplace. The paper (by the original membership of the group) was presented at the October 1999 Faculty Sessional Meeting.

Membership

Chairman: Grenham, Dermot (Dermot.grenham@uk.pwcglobal.com)

Other members: Since the presentation of the paper in 1999 all the then existing members of the group have resigned. New members are currently being sought.

5 FINANCE AND INVESTMENT BOARD WORKING PARTIES

If you are interested in participating in one of the planned or on-going working parties, or have another topic to suggest, please contact the Secretary to the Finance and Investment Board; Peter Dingwall (tel: 020 7632 2136, e-mail: peterd@actuaries.org.uk).

Applications of Equity Portfolio Management - Planned

Membership

Chairman: Richardson, Mark (m_richardson@btinternet.com)

Other members: Ahluwalia, Manraj

Indexation - Planned

Membership

Chairman: Hitchin, Chris (chris.hitchen@railpeninvestments.co.uk)

Other members: Charters, Graeme; Holt, Stephen; Jagger, Simon; McLean, Derek; Wilcock,

Alan

Advances in Portfolio Risk Management - On Going

Objectives

Terms of reference: To build on the work of the 2000 working party on 'Predicted Tracking Errors:

Fact or Fantasy?'

Progress to date

Abstract submitted.

Membership

Chairman: Brooks, Mike (mike.brooks@bailliegifford.com)

Other members: Beukes, Leon; Gardner, Dan; Hibbert, John

Applications of Defined Contribution Pension Scheme Strategy - On-going

No update on the 2000 information has been received for the 2001 Report.

Progress to date

A paper 'Investment strategies for Defined Contribution Pension Schemes' presented at Investment Conference 1998.

A paper 'Defined Contribution Pension Schemes' presented at Investment Conference 1999.

Membership

Chairman: van Bezooyen, Jeroen

Other members: Exley, Jon; Mehta, Shyam; Smith, Andrew

Applications of Derivatives - On-going

No update on the 2000 information has been received for the 2001 Report.

Progress to date

Paper 'Applications of Derivatives in Life Insurance' presented at Investment Conference 2000.

Membership

Chairman: Wilson, Colin

Other members: Cairns, Andrew; Derbyshire, Gareth; Jelicic, Dan; Kemp, Malcolm; Ludvik,

Peter; McLean, Derek; O'Sullivan, Nigel; Race, Patrick; Sandford, Chris

Applications of Investment and Taxation - On-going

No update on the 2000 information has been received for the 2001 Report.

Objectives

Terms of reference: To investigate applications of investment and taxation.

Expected outcome

A paper 'Taxation - Allowing for Tax in Modern Statistical Models' to be presented at the Finance and Investment Conference 2001.

Progress to date

A paper 'Taxation and Investment' was presented at the Investment Conference, September 1998. A further paper, 'Taxation Effects on Cost of Capital' was presented at the 2000 Investment Conference.

Membership

Chairman: Exley, Jon (jon.exley@uk.wmmercer.com)

Other members: Armitage, Seth; Mehta, Shyam; Smith, Andrew; Wilson, Robert; van

Bezooyen, Jeroen

Commercial Real Estate Indices - On Going

Objectives

Terms of reference: Analyse published UK real estate indices, of the problems in their construction and characteristics of real estates data.

Progress to date

Abstract submitted.

Membership

Chairman: Booth, Philip (p.booth@city.ac.uk)

Other members: Ashurst, Robert; Blundell, Gerald; Brown, Stephen; Cumberworth, Martin;

Marcato, Gian Luca; Matysiak, George; Morrell, Guy; Pugh, Russell; Waites, Chris

Investment Management Selection - On-going

No update on the 2000 information has been received for the 2001 Report.

Progress to date

Paper 'Can retail investors exploit techniques used by Investment Consultants to financial institutions in the selection of Investment Managers?' at Investment Conference 2000.

Membership

Chairman: Charters, Graeme (g.charters@ukonline.co.uk)
Other members: Cutler, Hugh; Rains, Peter; Riddaway, Bobby

Measuring and Monitoring the Effectiveness of Asset Allocation in the Life and Pension Industries - On Going

Objectives

Terms of reference: 1)Compare/contrast the approaches to asset allocation decisions in the life and pension industries. 2)Document the issues regarding measuring and monitoring the effectiveness of asset allocation advice. 3)Suggest possible ways in which the effectiveness of asset allocation can be monitored.

Progress to date

Abstract submitted in the form of the TORs.

Membership

Chairman: Slater, Andrew (aslater@seic.com)

Other members: Riddaway, Bobby; Gillespie, Craig; Burke, Aidan; Bowie, David; Howie,

Robert; Yakoubov, Yakoub; Wilson, Colin

Quantitative Techniques - On-going

No update on the 2000 information has been received for the 2001 Report.

Objectives

Terms of reference: To investigate the quantitative techniques used in investment today, with the aim of looking behind the smokescreens of complicated mathematics and jargon to assess whether the methods are theoretically sound and appropriately applied.

Progress to date

A preliminary paper on factor modelling techniques was presented to the Investment Conference, June 1996.

A paper entitled "Actuaries take note: the yield curve is not flat", was presented to the Investment Conference, June 1997.

A paper "Strategic Currency Hedging" was presented to the Investment Conference, September 1998.

Three papers, 'Demystifying Active Quant', 'Relative Importance of Industry and Country Influences' and 'Market Neutral Investing' were presented at the 2000 Investment Conference.

Membership

Chairman: Jelicic, Dan (dan.jelicic@abnamro.com)

Other members: Brooks, Mike; Griffiths, Julie; Holt, Stephen; Jagger, Simon; Kemp, Malcolm;

Lavin, Paul; Munro, Joanna; Sandford, Chris; Wilson, Colin

Really Long Term Investment Products - On Going

Objectives

Terms of reference: To review the arguments why DB pension funds might be considered long term (long duration liabilities) and why in practice they may not be (trustees and employers manage them on a short or medium term basis, corporate activity means they change nature and form regularly, accounting measures such as FRS17/IAS19 mean shareholders see short term volatility): a)Are DB pensions long term investments? b)Does the investment term affect strategy decisions? c)A review of the rationale and evidence for DC lifestyling strategies.

Progress to date

Draft abstract submitted.

Membership

Chairman: Howie, Robert (robert.howie@uk.wmmercer.com)

Risk Mitigation for Pension Funds / SIP and Under-Funding - On Going

Objectives

Terms of reference: 1)Within the context of investment strategies for institutional funds, to establish a framework in which to analyse financial strength and changes in financial strength across multiple stakeholders. 2)Provide some insights into how risks and returns can be (re)collateralised so that unrewarded risks are mitigated with respect to each stakeholder.

Progress to date

Draft abstract submitted.

Membership

Chairman: Speed, Cliff (cliff.speed@bacon-woodrow.com)

Sterling Corporate Bond Index - On-going

No update on the 2000 information has been received for the 2001 Report.

Objectives

Terms of reference: To review Indices relative to MFR and FRED 20 needs with a view to presenting a short report.

Expected outcome

Agreement with Index providers as to the creation of an appropriate specification 'approved' Sterling Corporate Bond Index.

Progress to date

The specification has been agreed, potential providers have been identified and negotiations are underway.

Membership

Chairman: Rains, Peter (peter.rains@morleyfm.com)

The Effects of Buybacks on Investment Trust Discounts - On Going

Objectives

Terms of reference: To describe the buybacks made over the study period and try to assess the circumstances where this has lead to sustainable discount reductions and to investigate the effect on discount volatility.

Progress to date

Abstract submitted.

Membership

Chairman: Moretta, Brian (brian@scottish-value.co.uk) Other members: Adams, Andy; MacPherson, Roddy

The Future Demands of Equities - On Going

Objectives

Terms of reference: To produce a paper from a UK view but taking into account the global perspective which addresses: where demand has come from in the past and why; where the supply has come from in the past and why; future demand from institutions e.g. pension funds, life offices; future demand for individuals.

Progress to date

Draft abstract submitted.

Membership

Chairman: Mcelvanney, Robert (robert.i.mcelvanney@uk.pwcglobal.com)
Other members: Delvin, Peter; Hurt, Andy; McLean, Derek; Mollan, Marcus

The Role of Hedge Funds - On-going

Objectives

Terms of reference: To consider the practicalities of integrating hedge funds with traditional institutional investment approaches.

Progress to date

Abstract awaited.

Membership

Chairman: Jung, Graham (Graham.Jung@gs.com)

Other members: Holt, Stephen; Howie, Robert: Gillespie, Craig; Lawrence, Adrian; Wales, Paul

Value Measurement Investment - On Going

Objectives

Terms of reference: To investigate common measures of value used outside life assurance, and analyse the potential for improving these by applying actuarial principles and risk concepts, illustrating this with worked examples.

Progress to date

Draft abstract submitted.

Membership

Chairman: McLean, Colin (colin@scottish-value.co.uk)

Other members: Board, Jeremy; Keane, Stephen; Louw, Wynand; Rodriguez, Richard;

Waites, Chris; White, Martin

Value Measurement Steering Group - On-going

No update on the 2000 information has been received for the 2001 Report.

Objectives

Terms of reference: To explore and make recommendations upon the opportunities for the use of Value Based Methods within the actuarial profession and for further investigation. To establish, oversee and co-ordinate Practice Board Working parties and evaluate their work.

Expected outcome

Some sort of 'understanding' paper explaining terminology and what actuaries do differently. Write-ups of one or more field studies looking at problems and why methodologies achieve different outcomes. A discussion paper including critiques and criticisms of what actuaries/others do. Suggestions as to areas of further work/changes to the Education syllabus and appropriate CPD. Interim report to the Finance and Investment Board by August 2001.

Progress to date

Initial survey undertaken of Value Approaches. Practice Boards asked to undertake research into the way EVA-type Value Measurement Methods might be used within specific practice areas. SIAS paper, 'Do actuaries know how to measure value?' February 2001.

Membership

Chairman: McLean, Colin (colin@scottish-value.co.uk)

Other members: Dixon, Sally; Massey, Chris; Pemberton, John; Pike, Martin; Sheldon, Tim;

Silverman, Tony; Waites, Chris; Wilson, Colin

Applications of Bond Portfolio Management - Completed 2001

Progress to date

A paper ' The use of Yield Curves in Bond Portfolio Management' presented at the Investment Conference 1998A paper ' The Impact of Swaps on the Bond Market' Presented at the Investment Conference 1999. Paper 'The Sterling Corporate Bond Market and its future development' presented at the Investment Conference June 2001.

Paper can be found at:

http://www.actuaries.org.uk/library/proceedings/fin_inv/2001/mehta.pdf

Membership

Chairman: Mehta, Shyam (s.mehta@btinternet.com)

Other members: Dyer, David; Garvey, Thomas; Jagger, Simon; Jones, Simon; Osborn-Barker,

Antony; Riddaway, Bobby; Taylor, Nigel; van Bezooyen, Jeroen

Applications of Financial Theory in Investment Management - Completed 2001

Objectives

Terms of reference: To investigate applications of financial theory in investment management.

Progress to date

A paper 'Pension funds and the UK market' presented at the Finance and Investment Conference 2001. Presentation of seven papers at the 2000 Investment Conference: 'Asset models', 'Investment strategy and the valuation of i) Interest sensitive products', 'ii) W.P. products', 'ALM for pensions funds', 'Information Structures', 'Introduction to Convenience Yields' and 'Performance Measurement'. Four papers were presented at the 1999 Investment Conference: 'A review of models for pricing caps and floors in inflation over the long-term', 'Tax considerations when investing in a Life Company', 'The deferred annuity conundrum' and 'Pension Funds - a Company Manager's View'. A paper "Valuing and Hedging Guaranteed Annuity Options" was presented at the Investment Conference, September 1998.

Paper can be found at:

http://www.actuaries.org.uk/library/proceedings/fin_inv/2001/exley.pdf

Membership

Chairman: Exley, Jon (jon.exley@uk.wmmercer.com)

Other members: Armitage, Seth; Mehta, Shyam; Smith, Andrew; Speed, Cliff; van Bezooyen,

Jeroen

Applications of Institutional Investment Topics - Completed 2001

Progress to date

'Hedge Funds for Pensions Funds' paper presented at Finance Conference, June 2001.

Paper can be found at:

http://www.actuaries.org.uk/library/proceedings/fin_inv/2001/cutler.pdf

Membership

Chairman: Cutler, Hugh (hugh@panoramic.fsnet.co.uk)

Other members: Derbyshire, Gareth; Gillespie, Craig; Howie, Robert; O'Brien, Michael; Paxton,

Thomas; Shyam, Metha; Wright, Greg

Applications of Performance, Portfolio Risk and Return - Completed 2001

Progress to date

Paper 'Persistency of returns for UK equity funds' presented at Investment Conference 1999 Paper 'Portfolio Risk Measurement and Reporting: A practical guide for pension funds' presented at Investment Conference 1999 Paper 'Predicted tracking error - Fact or Fantasy?' presented at Investment Conference 2000. Paper 'The practicalities of Budgeting, Managing and Monitoring Investment Risk for Pension Funds' presented at the Finance and Investment Conference 2001.

Paper can be found at:

http://www.actuaries.org.uk/library/proceedings/fin_inv/2001/brooks.pdf

Membership

Chairman: Brooks, Mike (mike.brooks@bailliegifford.com)

Other members: Bowie, David; Cumberworth, Martin; Haig, Alastair; Nelson, Bernie

Applications of Stochastic Investment Models - Completed 2001

Progress to date

Two papers, 'An Autoregressive Yield Curve with no free lunch' and 'Consistent assumptions for multinational asset models' presented at the Finance and Investment Conference June 2001.

Paper can be found at:

http://www.actuaries.org.uk/library/proceedings/fin_inv/2001/smith1.pdf

Membership

Chairman: Smith, Andrew

Other members: Guthrie, Keith; Howie, Robert; Ludvik, Peter; Metha, Shyam; Van Bezooyen,

Jeroen

Mortgage Prepayment Risk - Completed 2001

Progress to date

A paper, 'Models for Mortgage Prepayment Risk', presented at the Finance and Investment Conference 2001.

Paper can be found at:

http://www.actuaries.org.uk/finance_invest/mort_prepay_rpt.pdf

Membership

Chairman: Perry, Simon (perrys@towers.com)
Other members: Robinson, Stuart; Rowland, John

6 GENERAL INSURANCE BOARD WORKING PARTIES

Next year's GIRO Convention will be held 8-11 October 2002 at EuroDisney, Paris. If you are interested in participating in one of the planned or on-going working parties, or have another topic to suggest, please contact the Chairman of the General Insurance Research Committee (GIRO), Richard Winter (tel: 020 7334 6225, e-mail: richard.winter@prudential.co.uk)

Draft GN15 Equivalent - Planned

General Insurance Investment Strategies - Planned

Membership

Chairman: to be agreed

Other members: Boulton, Roger; Dore, Marian; Eabry, Michael; Harding, Justyn; Laird, Sean; Maguire, Matthew; Mehta, Shyam; Olesen, Annette; Papachristous, Dimitris; Rodriguez,

Richard; Sayers, Jeff; Walker, Stephen

Professional Indemnity and D&O - Pricing and Current Issues - Planned

Membership

Chairman: Johnson, Henry (henry.johnson@lloyds.com)

Other members: Johal, Baldeep; Lyons, Graham; McConnell, Bill; McPherson, James; Moss,

Gaynore; Shepley, Stuart; Slater, David; Waite, Jez

State of the Art Pricing - Planned

Membership

Chairman: Coughlan, Dave (david.coughlan@zurich.com)

Other members: Angell, Kate; Dore, Marian; Mackie, Fergus; Mehta, Shyam; Mitchell, Grant;

Plowman, Ed

APH Update and Issues - On-going

Progress to date

Paper presented at GIRO 2001.

Paper can be found at:

http://www.actuaries.org.uk/library/proceedings/gen_ins/2001gic/Michaels.pdf

Membership

Chairman: Slater, David (david.slater@eu.watsonwyatt.com)

Other members: Kirk, Jerome; Macnair, Andrew; Sanders, David; Sheaf, Simon; White, Martin

Applying the New Tax Regulations in Practice - On-going

Membership

Chairman: Hindley, David (dhindley@bw-deloitte.com)

Aviation Insurance - On-going

Objectives

Terms of reference: Update on market since the 2000 paper. What does the future of the market look like? What role should actuaries be playing in moulding the market?

Membership

Chairman: Harding, Justyn (Justyn. Harding@resolutemanagement.com)

Cost of the Compensation Culture - On-going

Objectives

Terms of reference: Review the 'macro' costs of compensation in the UK. Current practice for reserving/pricing for different types of insured compensation. Compare internationally relative levels of different types of compensation. Survey the public's attitude to compensation and consider mutually beneficial underwriting approaches that insurers might adopt. Review the relative levels of different types of compensation in the UK.

Membership

Chairman: Lowe, Julian (julianlowe@norwich-union.co.uk)

Definition and Interpretation of Terminology in Common Use - On-going

Objectives

Terms of reference: Identifying situations where the same words are used to mean different things. How do actuaries justify the terms that they use. What problems can this cause in practice. Should the profession develop clear definitions, or is it up to individual actuaries to explain what they mean better? What insight can we get from other countries.

Membership

Chairman: Coutts, Stewart (stewart@stewartcoutts.demon.co.uk)

European Weather Derivatives - On Going

Objectives

Terms of reference: Why is there more of a market in the US than Europe? Could insurance companies use them to diversify risk? Identify potential UK markets (size, industry etc.) What underlying indicators could be used? Differences between the UK and US markets. El Nino: effect on pricing methods and data.

Expected outcome

Aim to present a paper in 2002 building on the work completed in 2001 on weather derivatives.

Progress to date

Paper 'European Weather Derivatives' presented at the GIRO 2001; another paper is underway for 2002.

Membership

Chairman: Ross, Nick (rossn@norwich-union.co.uk)

Other members: Bain, Derek; Bains, Talbir; Eabry, Michael; Eagle, Matthew; Johal, Baldeep;

Mackie, Fergus; Perry, Geoff; Tippin, Philip; Walker, Stephen

Fair Value Accounting - On-going

Objectives

Aim of project: To consider implications and implementation of IASC proposals for Insurance Accounting as it relates to General Insurance.

Terms of reference: Increase awareness of the IASB's proposals within the actuarial profession. Consider how proposals will effect the GI accounts. Suggest how proposals could be implemented. Consider how actuaries can contribute to preparing accounts. Give practical examples of accounts.

Expected outcome

Paper for GIRO 2002.

Progress to date

Meetings held and drafting started.

Membership

Chairman: Clark, Peter (peter.k.clark@uk.pwcglobal.com)

Other members: Brockman, Michael; Cresswell, Catherine; Hinton, Peter; Monk, Richard;

Nicholson, Erica; Silverman, Tony; Storey, Liam; Wells, Gary; White, Martin

Financial Condition Reporting - On-going

Objectives

Terms of reference: Building on the work in the sessional paper, what would a financial condition report look like in practice? Case study to be presented at a seminar 2002.

Membership

Chairman: Aghadiuno, Chika (chika_aghadiuno@cgnu.net)

House Insurance - On-going

Objectives

Terms of reference: Recent experience, in particular claims inflation. Changing weather patterns and flood experience. Has the increasing consumption of recent years led to systematic under insurance? The likely effects of changing economic circumstances. Building a reserving index that models daily claims experience at postcode level using published/proprietary weather information.

Progress to date

Obtained data on household claim costs/numbers by occurrence month and peril and summarised trends. Obtained Met Office daily weather data by location. Obtained individual claims data by postcode and peril for occurrence dates back to 1997. Merged daily claims and weather data for gust speed on day against storm claims.

Membership

Chairman: Cowley, Rob (cowler1@norwich-union.co.uk)

Investment Strategies for General Insurance Companies - On-going

Objectives

Terms of reference: Is there an optimal theoretical strategy? What do companies do in practice? What are the reasons for the differences?

Membership

Chairman: Eabry, Michael (michael.d.eabry@uk.pwcglobal.com)

Measuring Customer Value - On Going

Objectives

Terms of reference: Identify organisations that already measure customer value. See how they do it (and how successful they are). See how they use those values. See what lessons they have learned. Identify organisations that have chosen not to measure customer value and why they have followed that course.

Progress to date

Paper presented at GIRO 2001.

Membership

Chairman: To be agreed.

Other members: Bijl, Peter; Branch, Vincent; Brown, David; Hill, Stephen; Hillon, James;

Michaels, Darren; Van Delm, Rudi; Newton, Derek

Operational Risk - On-going

Objectives

Terms of reference: What role could actuaries play in identifying and quantifying operational risk. What tools exist to help in the process. What needs to be developed to make this work better in the future. Also, 1)What is OpRisk and why does it matter? 2) Identify areas and sectors where OpRisk exists. 3)Review current sources of information on OpRisk. 4) How to control, manage, measure and estimate OpRisk. 5) What is the role of actuaries in OpRisk and what skills do they need? Initially looking across all industries, but recognising that ultimate application will be in actuarial fields (e.g. life and non-life insurance).

Expected outcome

To produce a paper on OpRisk for inclusion in GIRO 2002 conference papers.

Membership

Chairman: Duffy, Paul (paul.duffy@quantum-actuarial.com)

Political Risk Insurance - On-going

Objectives

Aim of project: Educational Paper - introduction to issues around Political Risk Insurance, along with an exploration of the risks involved and how these may be priced and/or reserved for.

Terms of reference: Overview of cover for acts such as terrorism, political unrest, kidnap etc. How the commercial insurance market can provide this coverage, and the existence (or not) of 'insurers of last resort'. Predict market changes given current world situation. Pricing considerations. Reserving issues.

Expected outcome

Production of paper for GIRO 2002.

Progress to date

Initial meetings taken place - gathering information.

Membership

Chairman: Tippin, Philip (philip.tippin@kpmg.co.uk)

Other members: Alington, Nigel; Bennett, Camilla; Couper, Andrew; Eabry, Michael; Harding,

Justyn; Johal, Gurpreet; McConnell, Bill; Moss, Gaynore

Portfolio Transfers - On-going

Objectives

Terms of reference: Reasons for buying and selling portfolios. Loss portfolios versus premium portfolios. Pricing aspects: risk premium, discount, risk margin. Policyholder/regulatory issues. Legal requirements. Reinsurance considerations. Market data: frequency, typical examples. Accounting issues, including fair value accounting. US v UK differences. Contrast between portfolio transfer and outward reinsurance. Contrast between portfolio transfer and commutation.

Expected outcome

Intend to cover the topics agreed and produce a paper for GIRO, in time for publication in the 2002 GIRO book.

Membership

Chairman: MacNair, Andrew (andy.macnair@fsa.gov.uk)

Other members: Bruce, Neil; Harrar, Sukie; Perry, Geoff; Quane, Alessa; Russell, Cheryl;

Townley, Lawrence

Pricing, Management and Control of Extreme Events - On-going

Objectives

Terms of reference: Events and realistic disaster scenarios. Extreme Value Theory (and applications). Catastrophe Models. Pricing/Reserve assessment/Management.

Membership

Chairman: Sanders, David (david.sanders@millimanuk.com)

Reinsurance Commutations - On-going

Objectives

Aim of project: To produce a sessional paper updating the profession on various aspects of commutations including pricing and the relevant margin for uncertainty.

Terms of reference: 1) Review the existing material. 2) Document current actuarial practice and involvement. 3) Produce a paper covering best practice and approaches.

Expected outcome

Sessional paper either for discussion at institute or publication in BAJ without a sessional meeting.

Progress to date

Sessional paper submitted for review.

Membership

Chairman: Joseph, Bryan (bryan.r.joseph@uk.pwcglobal.com)

Other members: Collins, Jon; Jarman, Lucy; Johnson, Henry; Lyons, Graham; Piper, Jonathan;

Newbury, Karen

Reliance on Advice from Other Professionals - On-going

Objectives

Terms of reference: Review work done by CAS and other actuarial bodies. How would this be different for UK/Europe. What approach do other professionals take (e.g. accountancy).

Membership

Chairman: Newman, Andrew (andrew.newman@uk.pwcglobal.com)

Stochastic Reserving Methods - On-going

No update on the 2000 information has been received for the 2001 Report.

Progress to date

Initial presentation to GIRO 2000.

Membership

Chairman: Fagnoni, Hervé (herve.j.fagnoni@uk.pwcglobal.com)

Other members: Bain, Derek; Leifar, Andrew; Line, Nick; Monk, Joe; Skinner, Justin

Update Claims Reserving Model - On-going

Objectives

Terms of reference: Review and describe new methods. Present practical chain ladder variations. Provision of ranges using stochastic or other methods. Provide working guide to the execution of reserving. APH reserving methodology. Consider provision of soft-ware versions of basic methods.

Membership

Chairman: Lyons, Graham (lyonsg@towers.com)

Why Insurers Fail - On Going

Objectives

Aim of project: To identify the key reasons behind the failure of general insurance companies. Terms of reference: To summarise previous research on the subject, investigate individual case studies and identify the lessons which can be learnt from past failures. The paper will also consider the role the regulator plays in creating the environment that leads to failure and provide an insight into how rating agencies grade individual insurer's claims paying ability.

Expected outcome

A paper that will provide insight into why insurers have failed in the past with the aim of identifying

reasons why companies may fail in the future.

Progress to date

Research complete, a database of past failures compiled.

Membership

Chairman: Massey, Roger (roger.massey@churchill-insurance.co.uk)

Other members: Harris, Simon; Hart, David; Harrar, Sukphal; Hawes, Wendy; Law, Debbie;

Mackie, Fergus; Niven, Clive; Westrip, Alan; Widdows, James

Calculating Premium Monitoring / Rate Change Indices - Completed 2001

Progress to date

Paper 'Premium Rating Indices' presented at GIRO 2001.

Paper can be found at:

http://www.actuaries.org.uk/library/proceedings/gen_ins/2001gic/mcconnell.pdf

Membership

Chairman: McConnell, Bill

Other members: Archer-Lock, Phil; Bains, Talbir; Copeman, Peter; Foord, Alex; Hilder, Ian; Keig, Mike; Mathews, Steve; Matthee, Michiel; Tanser, James; White, Martin; Wilcox, Stephen

Structured Settlements - Lessons for the UK from Overseas - Completed 2001

Objectives

Aim of project: Look at future of structured settlements in the UK, and overseas.

Terms of reference: The paper will cover the following subject areas: Structured settlements in the context of the UK compensation, prospective view of potential development of alternative compensation methods.

Progress to date

Paper presented to GIRO 2000 and update GIRO 2001. Inform debate on development of compensation methods in the UK.

Paper can be found at:

http://www.actuaries.org.uk/library/proceedings/gen_ins/2000gic/struct_sets_wp.pdf

Membership

Chairman: Charles, John (charlej@towers.com)

Other members: Barton, Catherine; Black, Simon; Boit, François; Cresswell, Catherine; Ellis,

Phil; Hamilton, Alex; Maher, Jim; Montgomery, Jack; Philps, Richard; Ross, Nick

Capital Allocation - Discontinued 2001

Objectives

Aim of project: To survey existing approaches to capital allocation and produce a report explaining its benefits.

Terms of reference: Investigate issues surrounding capital allocation.

Expected outcome

Final report to GIRO.

Progress to date

Interim report to GIRO 1999 and 2000.

Paper can be found at:

http://www.actuaries.org.uk/library/proceedings/gen_ins/2001gic/Orr.pdf

Membership

Chairman: Orr, James (James.Orr@Lloyds.com)

Other members: Dalton, Kevin; Ibeson, David; Jones, Liz; Moss, Gaynore; Perry, Geoff; Rix,

Stephen; Sanders, David; Sayers, Jeff; Shah, Nylesh; Thomas, Tim

7 LIFE BOARD WORKING PARTIES

If you are interested in participating in one of the planned or on-going working parties, or have another topic to suggest, please contact the Secretary to the Life Board; Maria Singleton (tel: 020 7632 2173, e-mail: marias@actuaries.org.uk)

Customers' Interests - On-going

Objectives

Aim of project: To consider the relationship between the concepts of "policyholders' reasonable expectations" (PRE) and "customers' interests" (CI).

Terms of reference: To consider the proposal to replace the concept of PRE as set out in the Insurance Companies Act by that of CI as defined by FSA Principle 6. In particular to consider: 1) The relation between PRE and CI. 2) The implications for the life insurance industry and the actuarial profession. 3) The implications for the role of the appointed actuary as adviser to the company. The work should include discussion with officials of the FSA and GAD, liaising with the FSA Co-ordination Committee, and monitoring developments, for example, in further FSA documents. The intention is to produce a report to stimulate discussion within the profession for the 2000 Life Convention.

Expected outcome

Brief report followed by watching brief over developments.

Progress to date

Report to Life Conventions 2000, 2001 and conference 3/2001. Met with FSA on WP Review.

Membership

Chairman: Thompson, Stuart (Thompss@tillinghast.com)
Other members: Bright, Doug; Cummings, John; Shah, Rajeev

Customer Value - On-going

Objectives

Aim of project: To examine the role that Customer Value can play in improving the performance of life insurance offices.

Terms of reference: To examine the usefulness of customer value techniques to life insurers, both in the short and long term and to determine suitable measures of customer value for short and long term practical use. To define the role of actuaries in this area and demonstrate how that role might be carried out. To consider how life insurers should change their strategy or behaviour to maximise the advantages from customer value initiatives.

Expected outcome

Professional paper - probably to SIAS initially.

Progress to date

Session at 2000 Life Convention and 2001 Life Convention.

Membership

Chairman: chairman to be appointed

Other members: Desai, Amish; Ford, Matthew; Gott, David; Pond, David; Thornham, Tim;

Whitworth, John

Life Assurance Value Measurement - On-going

No update on the 2000 information has been received for the 2001 Report.

Objectives

Terms of reference: To summarise what Value Measurement models are currently being used by life offices.

To study the ways in which Value Measurement models might be used in practice.

To consider the practical issues involved in using Value Measurement models.

To compare and contrast the various Value Measurement models.

To consider how actuaries and the profession could best contribute to the use and development of Value Measurement techniques.

To illustrate various Value Measurement methods using worked examples or case studies.

To consider what material might be suitable for the profession's CPD scheme.

Expected outcome

Paper on life aspects of Value Measurement.

Progress to date

Interim presentation life aspects of Value Measurement at 2000 Life Convention; some input into imminent student society paper on general aspects of Value Measurement; additional paper being drafted to cover life aspects.

Membership

Chairman: Sheard, Michael (Michael.Sheard@Prudential.co.uk)

Other members: Gentry, Lee; Howell, David; Mason, Alan; Mehta, Shyam; Purves, Brian;

Sharp, Andy; Stevens, Anthony; Wilson, Colin

Life Office Taxation - On-going

Objectives

Aim of project: To keep the profession informed of developments in the field of Life Office Taxation.

Terms of reference: 1) To keep abreast of new developments 2) To analyse their impact 3) To inform the profession as appropriate 4) As a subsidiary objective, to consider the impact of some of the more complex aspects of UK life office taxation on actuarial work.

Expected outcome

Articles on different aspects of life office taxation in The Actuary magazine.

Progress to date

Sessions at 2000 & 2001 Life Conventions; a number of articles and columns published in The Actuary.

Membership

Chairman: Allan, Graham (grahamjallan@aol.com)

Other members: Forbes, Morris; Taylor, Matthew; Turnbull, Paul; Wild, Keith

Management of Closed Funds - On-going

Objectives

Aim of project: To identify risk areas and issues relating to the management of closed funds and to identify some possible solutions.

Terms of reference: In progress.

Expected outcome

Presentation on progress to date at the Life Convention in November 2002.

Progress to date

Initial meeting held.

Membership

Chairman: Pallister, Juile (julie.pallister@century-finserv.co.uk)

Other members: Burke, Andrew; Holtham, Andy; Morris, Peter; Pindar, Tim; Ross, Geoff; Smith, Alastair; Summerfield, Andrew; Walton, Andrew; Wells, Andrew; Wilkinson, Stuart

Product Reviews - On-going

No update on the 2000 information has been received for the 2001 Report.

Objectives

Aim of project: To review current practice with regard to product reviews and, to the extent considered appropriate, to make recommendations as to best practice.

Terms of reference: The objective of the Working Party is to review current practice with regard to product reviews and, to the extent considered appropriate, to make recommendations as to best practice. The scope of the Working Party's review is to include consideration of: 1) individual life and pensions products where either the original premium was chosen with the intention of achieving a certain target level of benefits on maturity or retirement or for a period of time and/or the terms of the product (e.g. expense or risk charges) can be varied 2) the timing of reviews 3) assumptions made regarding future experience 4) policyholders' reasonable expectations 5) policyholder communications 6) remedial action taken or offered to policyholders.

Expected outcome

Report to CILA or similar Faculty/Institute event.

Progress to date

Session at Life Convention 2000.

Membership

Chairman: To be advised.

Other members: Foster, Simon; Gracie, Stewart; Karlcut, Harpal; Smith, David; Snow, Harold;

Telford, Peter

Selection in the Annuity Market - On-going

Objectives

Aim of project: To consider the implications for life offices and policyholders of recent developments in the annuity market regarding impaired life annuities and income drawdown. Terms of reference: To investigate the impact of changes in the annuity market on reserving and life company profitability (specifically, impaired life annuities and income drawdown schemes) and to develop a model to measure profitability under different scenarios.

Expected outcome

Sessional meeting paper.

Progress to date

Session at 2000 Life Convention, Session at 2001 Life Convention.

Paper can be found at:

http://www.actuaries.org.uk/library/proceedings/life/life2000/mpoul-c02.pdf http://www.actuaries.org.uk/library/proceedings/life/life2000/slides-c02.pdf

Membership

Chairman: Poulding, Michael (mike.poulding@talk21.com)

Other members: Burgess, Stephen; Jackson, Lawrence; Latto, Phillip; O'Regan, Kevin;

Summerfield, Andrew; Willetts, Richard

Use of Derivatives in Life Assurance - On-going

Objectives

Aim of project: To analyse examples of derivatives use.

Terms of reference: The aim of the working party is to consider examples where life assurance companies are currently utilising derivatives, or might like to use derivatives, and to establish if companies believe their use of derivatives is constrained.

Expected outcome

Second phase will carry this work forward once the Chairman has been appointed.

Progress to date

Session at 2000 Life Convention. First phase complete.

Membership

Chairman: To be confirmed

Other members: Brindley, Rupert; Cooper, Paul; Finkelstein, Gary; Pearson, Jeff; Rear, Andy;

Turley, Frank

Fair Valuation - Completed 2001

Objectives

Aim of project: In recognition of the inadequacy of the existing methods of actuarial valuation for long-term insurance, particularly for supervisory purposes, under certain circumstances and economic conditions, the working party has been asked to reconsider the issues.

Terms of reference: The Working Party reports directly to the Life Board. 1) The Working Party will consider the various objectives of valuation e.g. solvency supervision, valuation for policyholders' reasonable expectations, valuation for resilience, including using a risk capital approach, and valuation for presentation in annual Companies Act accounts (generally, in UK, of parent companies, distinguishing, if necessary, between whether the principal business of the parent is insurance business or not). It will review the essential characteristics of each and consider whether it is possible to produce consistency from approach to approach. 2) The Working Party will consider whether better methods could be developed if the constraints of existing regulation and legislation were to be ignored. In particular it is to be assumed that a new International Accounting Standard will be developed and that fair value of both assets and liabilities will be incorporated in annual reporting 3) The Working Party will attempt to identify a set of valuation principles for supervision and associated purposes. Without unduly limiting itself to UK-based considerations, the Working Party will have regard to the situation for (UK-style) with-profits business. 4) In its deliberations the Working Party will take into account all types of long-term products, unitised and conventional, existing and developing, with and without profits.

Progress to date

Monthly meetings from spring 2000 onwards; session at 2000 Life Convention; Sessional

Meetings held November 2001. Input to international discussions of IAS on insurance accounting.

Membership

Chairman: Hairs, Chris (ChrisHairs@aol.com)

Other members: Belsham, David; Bryson, Norval; Dann, Malcolm; George, Chris; Hare, David;

Headdon, Chris; Masters, Nigel; Miller, Keith; Smith, David; Thompson, Stuart

Financial Condition Reports - Completed 2001

Progress to date

Session at 2000 Life Convention.

Paper can be found at:

www.actuaries.org.uk/library/proceedings/life/life2000/pcarr-f01.pdf

Membership

Chairman: Carr, Peter (peter_carr@amp.com.au)

Other members: Adler, Will; Desai, Amish; Malpas, Jonathan; Pike, Martin; Walton, Andrew;

Watson, Paul

Regulatory Capital for Financial Services - Completed 2001

Objectives

Terms of reference: To summarise and compare, using case studies, the rules for determining the statutory solvency position of life insurance companies, banks and fund management companies in the UK.

Progress to date

Session at 2000 Life Convention. SIAS paper during 2001.

Membership

Chairman: Muir, Martin (martin.muir@eu.watsonwyatt.com)

Other members: Chamberlain, Andrew; Moran, Ian; Perry, Simon; Stocks, Stuart; Thornton,

Craig

Transparency of With-Profits Business - Completed 2001

Objectives

Aim of project: To prepare proposals for improving the transparency of the operation of with-profits business to assist greater understanding by the public, with particular emphasis on stakeholder pensions.

Terms of reference: The Working Party reports direct to the Life Board. The Working Party is tasked with preparing proposals for the transparent operation of with-profits business presenting 1) by 18 February 2000, an initial report that focuses on the use of with-profits for Stakeholder Pensions, and 2) in the latter part of 2000, a comprehensive report also encompassing the implications for in force business and methods of enhancing public understanding of the nature of with-profits business.

Progress to date

Monthly meetings from spring 2000; presentation to 2000 Life Convention; presented to sessional meetings on 26 February and 19 March 2001. Report to be presented to Sessional Meeting in May 2001. Papers for publication in BAJ.

Paper can be found at:

http://www.actuaries.org.uk/sessional/sm0102.pdf

Membership

Chairman: Clay, Graham (graham.clay@prudential.co.uk)

Other members: Frankland, Ralph; Horn, Tony; Hylands, John; Johnson, Chris; Kerry, Robert;

Lister, John; Loseby, Ruth; Newbould, Brian

Value at Risk - Discontinued 2001

Membership

Chairman: Thomas, Perry

Virtual Life Offices - Discontinued 2001

Progress to date

One meeting has been held.

Membership

Chairman: Granville, Mike (mike@cinnamonw.demon.co.uk)

8 PENSIONS BOARD WORKING PARTIES

If you are interested in participating in one of the planned or on-going working parties, or have another topic to suggest, please contact the Secretary to the Pensions Boards' Research and Technical Support Committee: Georgina Ivers (tel: 01865 268235, e-mail: georgini@actuaries.org.uk)

Benefit Design - Planned

Objectives

Terms of reference: To consider alternatives for benefit design in the light of the changes taking place in the pensions industry. To consider the implications for members and sponsors.

Membership

Chairman: Hammer, Mike (hammerm@towers.com)

Risk Benefits - Planned

Objectives

Terms of reference: To determine the extent of self-insurance of risk benefits of occupational pension schemes. To analyse schemes that self insure by: a)size of scheme b)size and rating of employer. To determine types of risk benefit insurance effected by schemes, analysed by: a)size of scheme b)size and rating of employer. To determine optimal risk-benefit insurance strategy for schemes differentiating by size of scheme, size of employer and rating of employer.

Retirement Income Reform - On-going

Objectives

Terms of reference: 1)To consider what obstacles need to be removed to give the annuities market the flexibility to design a range of products of the type covered in Extending Choices distinguishing between those parts which are fundamental to legislation and those to Inland Revenue practice. 2)To consider how those buying annuities could obtain information. 3)To consider the need for education and advice on annuities and whether this would be helped through the provision of decision tress or a clearing house. 4)To provide simple modelling illustrations of the effect of alternative annuity scenarios over the past thirty years. 5)To illustrate how the introduction of a new annuity regime could be designed to be tax neutral. 6)To consider the implications of removing the age-related compulsory buying of an annuity. 7)To consider the implications of inheritabilty. 8)To recommend to the Pensions Board practical ways forward and to discuss these where appropriate with the Faculty and Institute advisers.

Expected outcome

To report to the Technical Support Committee by 14th February so that the Committee can report to the Pensions Board on 1st March 2002.

Membership

Chairman: Riddington, David (riddind@norwich-union.co.uk)

Other members: Boardman, Tom; Bodie, Nigel; Challis, Paul; Gray, Leslie; Poulding, Mike; Wadsworth, Mike

Stochastic Pensions Valuations and the Assessment of Funding Risk - On-going

Objectives

Aim of project: To investigate the use of Stochastic Processes in the provision of advice to pension funds. To find common ground on the approaches adopted and to disseminate information to a wider audience.

Terms of reference: To investigate the application of stochastic processes to the provision of advice on the valuation of pension funds. To address the ways in which actuaries can and should communicate degrees of funding risk to the sponsors of schemes. To find common ground on the approaches adopted and to disseminate ideas to a wider audience. To make recommendations about the assumptions which should be included in reports to clients on valuations which have adopted a stochastic approach in their assessment.

Expected outcome

Paper for consideration by the Pensions Board.

Progress to date

The working party has met and been awarded research funding from the Education and CPD Boards' Research Steering Committee. Reported to the Pensions Conference in June 2001. Likely to be presented as a Sessional Paper in the 2002/03 session.

Membership

Chairman: Haberman, Steve

Other members: Day, Christopher; Fogarty, David; Khorasanee, Zaki; Lawrence, Adrian; McWhirter, Martin; Nash, Nichola; Speed, Cliff; Wright, Douglas; Yakoubov, Yakoub

Investment Strategies for Money Purchase Schemes - Discontinued 2001

Objectives

Terms of reference: To investigate the range of investment strategies adopted for money purchase schemes and stakeholder pensions, in particular looking at the degree of risk and its variation with the age of the investor. To consider "lifestyle investment" options, with an emphasis on how these are operated and how they may be affected by choices made by individual members as to, for example, retirement date. To make recommendations on the way in which different levels of risk may be communicated too lay members of pension schemes having to make choices for themselves, including possibly the use of "traffic light" systems to differentiate different levels of risk.

9 SOCIAL POLICY BOARD WORKING PARTIES

If you are interested in participating in one of the planned or on-going working parties, or have another topic to suggest, please contact the Secretary to the Social Policy Board: Martin Hewitt (tel: 020 7632 2185, e-mail: martinh@actuaries.org.uk).

Genetics and Insurance - Issues for Social Policy - Planned

Objectives

Terms of reference: Drawing on expertise of the Group to inform the profession of: current knowledge about actuarial research, social policy issues, issues on pooling, philosophical issues on equity, fairness, moral hazards and so forth, and future implications.

Progress to date

Drafted a plan for a paper, which is intended for a Sessional Paper in 2003.

Membership

Chairman: Daykin, Chris (chris.daykin@gad.gov.uk)

Other members: Akers, Debbie; Brett, Paul; Brown, Geoff; Macdonald, Angus; Paul, David;

Turvey, Peter

The Interface Between the Public and Private Sectors in Healthcare - Planned

Objectives

Terms of reference: To explore long term financial forecasting for the NHS in context of recommendations of Wanless Interim Report 2001. To develop the work of actuaries working as consultants. To develop the role of actuaries in the NHS, using their expertise.

Membership

Chairman: Coss, John

The Potential for Insurance Companies Developing Provisions in Care Rather than Cash - Planned

Objectives

Terms of reference: To develop the work of actuaries working as consultants. To develop the role of actuaries in the NHS, using their expertise.

Membership

Chairman: Sissons, Ian (isissons@munichre.com)

The Role of Actuaries in Healthcare - Planned

Objectives

Terms of reference: To develop the work of actuaries working as consultants. To develop the role of actuaries in the NHS, using their expertise.

Membership

Chairman: Le Grys, Des

Consumer Risk - On-going

Objectives

Terms of reference: To examine the nature and extent of consumer knowledge about financial planning. To identify factors contributing to risk averse and risk-venturing behaviour among consumers of financial products.

Expected outcome

This project is part of the Personal Financial planning Committee's brief following the Banham Lecture on consumer financial education. Produce findings for annual stocktaking event in late 2002 reviewing progress since Banham lecture and to publish findings.

Membership

Chairman: Goodwin, Alan Other members: Taylor, John

Medical Advances - On-going

Objectives

Terms of reference: 1)To collect data on the mortality and the morbidity of elderly people and secular trends in the UK and other developed countries. Explore differences in experience according to sex, social economic group and other factors. 2)To identify major medical advances or changes in the environment or habits that have altered health needs and mortality and to gauge how much these advances and changes have altered mortality and morbidity. 3)To identify current and future medical advances and changes in environment or habits that may affect future levels of mortality and health needs and the possible extent of the effect. 4)To determine a model to show the likely changes in mortality and health needs in the future and to project changes in life expectation and healthy life expectation. 5)To organise the work into several interlocking projects and update the Social Policy Board on progress. 6)To report findings at appropriate stages to the Actuarial Profession and externally to other professional bodies and the public.

Progress to date

Meeting to discuss aims, objectives etc, held on 17 Jan 2001.

Membership

Chairman: Seymour, Paul (paul.seymour@mathon-lodge.fsnet.co.uk)

Other members: Bailey, Bill; Cornall, Monica; Gallop, Adrian; Hangartner, Robert; Langkjaer, Martin; Le Grys, Des; Leader, Scott; Macdonald, Angus; Mayhew, Les; Metz, David; Paul, David; Robjohn, Neil; Shah, Rajeev; Spreeuw, Jaap; Van-Beek, Maria; Willets, Richard;

Wittenberg, Raphael

Pension Provision Taskforce - On-going

Objectives

Terms of reference: 1)To produce papers on: size of the state pension, means testing and the PHI offset, unfunded pensions both in the EU and the public sector, age of retirement and longevity, impact of annuitisation 2)To raise public awareness of these issues.

Expected outcome

Objective: to contribute a distinctive actuarial view to the debate on what State Pension Age should be and what needs to be changed before it can be raised.

Progress to date

Following presentation of 5 briefing papers in December 2000, the Taskforce delivered 3 of these papers at a seminar at the Palace of Westminster in February 2001: Means-testing, The size of the State Pension and the Age of Retirement. Findings from these papers were used to support the Profession's response to several Government Consultations during 2001.

Membership

Chairman: Lewis, David

Other members: Cooper, Deborah; Smith, Aidan

Retirement Options - On-going

Objectives

Aim of project: To consider advice the Profession might offer to members of the public as they conclude their working life and commence retirement.

Terms of reference: To be decided.

Expected outcome

To be decided.

Progress to date

First meeting held on 18th January 2001.

Membership

Chairman: Shallis, Paul (paul.shallis@landg.com)

Other members: Armstrong, Kirsten; Binns, Martin; Cizdyn, Roman; Goodman, Alan; Hindle, Joanne; Owen, Robert; Reilly, Stuart; Roberts, John; Smith, Ewan; Smith, Jo; Taylor, John

Critical Illness Cover - the Future - Completed 2001

Objectives

Aim of project: To investigate the future variability and direction of CIC.

Terms of reference: A joint investigation between the profession's Critical Illness Cover (CIC) Working Party and the Investment Life Insurance Group (ILAG) into the future variability and direction of CIC. To discover how CIC consumers perceive the product and how they positioned it alongside other forms of healthcare protection.

Progress to date

Output: completed October 2001.

Membership

Chairman: Payne, Stephen (stephen.payne@gerling.co.uk)

Other members: Mannion, Peter

Health and Care Committee - Health Services Group

Leader: John Coss

Contact: Martin Hewitt (tel: 020 7632 2185, e-mail: martinh@actuaries.org.uk).

UK Vaccination Programme - Risk and Reward - On-going

Objectives

Aim of project: To identify what actuaries can contribute to the study of the balance of risks (probability of experiencing adverse effect of vaccination versus risk of contracting illness by refusing vaccination) associated with vaccination programmes.

Progress to date

Delivered paper at 2001 Healthcare Conference. Project transferred to APMA.

Paper can be found at:

www.actuaries.org.uk/library/proceedings/health2001/Cornall.pdf

Membership

Chairman: Cornall, Monica (monica.cornall@kpmg.co.uk)

The NHS Plan - Completed 2001

Progress to date

Response to Government in 2000.

Health Data Charter - Discontinued 2001

Measuring Health Systems - Discontinued 2001

The 'Healthcare Management Actuary' - Discontinued 2001

Health and Care Committee - IP/CI Group

Leader: Sue Elliott

Contact: Martin Hewitt (tel: 020 7632 2185, e-mail: martinh@actuaries.org.uk).

Income Protection - Trends - Planned

Objectives

Terms of reference: To examine underlying trends in the factors influencing UK Insured Critical Illness claim rates, and from these to assess: 1)the historic trend in incidence in death rates for the major Cl's. 2)any pointers for future trend in Standalone Cl, Mortality and hence Accelerated Cl.

Expected outcome

To seek new information and a broader base on medical specialists and claims and underwriting experts etc. To form links with other groups such as APMA, ABI CI definitions group. Funding for data sets etc. To publish papers.

Membership

Chairman: Robjohns, Neil (nrobjohns@munichre.com)

Other members: Morris, Richard

Critical Illness - Robustness of Definition - On-going

Objectives

Aim of project: To review the long-term robustness of CI and occupation definitions.

Expected outcome

Planned SIAS paper in Spring 2001 and paper for the Healthcare Conference 2001.

Progress to date

Paper presented at Healthcare Conference 2001.

Membership

Chairman: Bradshaw, Nigel (nigelb@scotprov.co.uk)

Other members: Hanks, Chris; Macdonald, Alisdair; Payne, Stephen

Income Protection - Internal Risk Factors - On-going

Objectives

Aim of project: To produce guidance on risks associated with IP portfolios.

Terms of reference: To produce a ready-reference document to assist actuaries new to IP to understand the risk factors facing the portfolio.

To attempt to quantify the effectiveness of different companies' approaches to controlling these risks.

Expected outcome

Workshop at 2000 Healthcare Conference.

Progress to date

Risk factors associated with Income Protection were identified and rated.

Membership

Chairman: Pindar, Tim (tfpp@msas.co.uk)

Other members: Hilary, Neil; Howe, Andrew; Pipe, Julian; Shirley, Ailish

Income Protection - Trends by Cause (Terminations) - On-going

Objectives

Aim of project: Investigate trends in inception and recovery experience by cause of disability (1975-1994).

Progress to date

Presented at Healthcare Conference 2001.

Paper can be found at:

www.actuaries.org.uk/library/proceedings/health2001/wilkie.zip

Membership

Chairman: Wilkie, David

Other members: Coulthard, Terry; Moran, Ian; Northover, Carl

Health and Care Committee - Long Term Care Group

Leader: Ian Sissons

Contact: Martin Hewitt (tel: 020 7632 2185, e-mail: martinh@actuaries.org.uk).

Reserving/Valuation - On-going

Objectives

Aim of project: To make recommendations on the statutory valuation basis for long term care business in the UK.

Terms of reference: In particular to consider the sources and credibility of data; methods of modelling; changes in demographic assumptions; valuation issues arising from guarantees and policy reviews; PRE issues.

Progress to date

Presentation at 2001 Healthcare Conference.

Membership

Chairman: Laurie, Stephen (100336.3635@compuserve.com)

Other members: Baxter, David; Cook, Andy; Kipling, Robert; Smith, Martin

Experience Analysis - Discontinued 2001

Objectives

Aim of project: To consider the experience of LTC providers.

Terms of reference: Intention is to cover: Inception experience by ADL trigger; Cognitive Impairment inception experience; Assistive Devices Benefit experience (currently no UK date exists on this benefit); Long term we aim to extend the study to include terminations and potentially immediate care experience.

Progress to date

Speakers' Corner at 2000 Healthcare Conference.

Membership

Chairman: Moody, Simon (simon.moody@uk.wmmercer.com) Other members: Elliott, Sue; Gougal, Mike; McGurk, Peter

Projections - Discontinued 2001

Membership

Chairman: Rickayzen, Ben (b.d.rickayzen@city.ac.uk)

Other members: Elliott, Sue; Gallop, Adrian; Hodgson, Mark; Levay, Edward; Rear, Andy

Health and Care Committee - Multi-Disciplinary Group

Contact: Martin Hewitt (tel: 020 7632 2185, e-mail: martinh@actuaries.org.uk).

Healthcare - Related Employee Benefits - Planned

Health and Care Committee - PMI Group

Leader: Neil Hilary

Contact: Martin Hewitt (tel: 020 7632 2185, e-mail: martinh@actuaries.org.uk).

Health Inflation Index - Planned

Membership

Chairman: Hilary, Neil (neilh@actuaries.org.uk)

Other members: Sissons, Ian

Pricing Small Group PMI - Planned

Membership

Chairman: Evans, Stephen

Health Data - On-going

Objectives

Aim of project: To consider health data relevant to PMI.

Terms of reference: To work on data relevant to PMI in particular: Health data sources; Potential health data analysis for third party administrator; Keep abreast of developments on industry data (if any).

Progress to date

Workshop at 2000 Healthcare Conference.

Membership

Chairman: Plum, Robert (robert.plumb@vectorrisk.com)

Other members: Fisher, Hamish; Levay, Edward; McGurk, Peter; McIntosh, Steve

10 UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CONTACTS

Details of actuarial research activities in the following universities can be obtained from the addresses given.

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Published by the Faculty of Actuaries and Institute of Actuaries

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