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A view from a member: **Ian Rogers**



Ian Rogers is Chief Actuary (Insurance) and Head of Business Development at the Government Actuary's Department (GAD). He is a Fellow of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries and is based in London.

Getting into wider fields

“GAD’s mission is to support effective decision-making and robust reporting within government. The majority of GAD’s 100 plus actuarial staff work on public sector pensions. My role involves engaging with government departments to help them manage other financial risks.

A good example is our work with HM Treasury on the UK government’s retrocession agreement with Pool Re. Through this arrangement, the government provides the insurance industry with a guarantee of financial support in the event of an extreme (very high impact, very low probability) terrorist attack. This ensures that comprehensive and affordable insurance cover is available to help the wider economy remain resilient to the threat of terrorism. My role was to support the renegotiation of the retrocession and value the guarantee on a commercial basis, ensuring fair value for taxpayers.

Another example is our work with the Department for International Development on the UK government’s investment in a scheme to help African countries manage extreme climate risk. The African Risk Capacity enables participating African governments to insure themselves against natural disasters and respond rapidly when their citizens experience harvest failure. My role includes providing actuarial oversight of this arrangement.

How did you get to where you are today?

After many years working as a traditional insurance actuary (albeit in a variety of roles) I was looking for something a little different. GAD offered me the chance to apply my skills to a wide range of challenges across government for the ultimate benefit of UK taxpayers. This is immensely satisfying.

What is the unique perspective that you bring as an actuary?

Although the risks that government faces are different from those in the private sector (typically bigger and often unique), the same actuarial skills can be applied to make sense of these risks. These skills complement those of other government professionals and I am able to offer fresh insights to their challenges.



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What advice would you give to other actuaries wanting to work in non-traditional areas?

If you want to do something a bit different, you should think about what the challenges might be in that area and how you might be able to help. Excellent communication skills, both listening and giving clear messages, are vital. Creative thinking to tackle new issues also helps. My general advice would be: go for it!”

Contact us

If you have enjoyed reading Ian’s case study and you would like to share your experience of working in the wider fields, please contact Anna Clarke, Head of Chief Executive’s Office, Institute and Faculty of Actuaries. When contacting Anna please provide brief details of the area you work in; how you got there; how our actuarial skills and experience have helped you in this role; and any tips you would like to offer to other members. A note of your ARN would also be helpful.

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