

**The quest for value for money in mass pensions. A CSFI/PIC Pensions Fellowship round-table discussion with Debbie Harrison (Pensions Institute), Peter Morris, Pauline Skypala (*Financial Times*), Jonathan Lipkin (IMA) and Adrian Boulding (Legal & General).**

**To be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2014, from 12:30-2:15pm.  
At the London Capital Club, 15 Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 7BW.**

Auto-enrolment of employees into defined contribution (DC) workplace pension schemes is on a roll. Drop-out rates have been low and the OFT estimates that by 2018 up to 9 million additional people will be in them. But will they get value for money?

The OFT's study of the market, published last September, identified several problems. These included that charges were often too high in older schemes and for those with deferred pensions. Several other reports, including one from the Pensions Institute this January, have demonstrated that charges for default funds are a key determinant of pension outcomes, and that full disclosure of all member costs is essential, including the costs of asset management.

So why has the Department of Work and Pensions' proposal to cap charges been kicked into the long grass and is it even appropriate to impose a cap on the "total expense ratio", which is an incomplete measure of total member costs? The industry has argued that improved transparency would address the problem, but the degree of disclosure is still disputed. Moreover disclosure is only effective as a measure to drive competition and good member outcomes if those to whom the disclosure is made can understand the detail, ask the right questions and act on informed evaluation.

This is a highly complex and controversial subject. To help us look at it rationally we are delighted to welcome:

- Debbie Harrison, Visiting Professor, The Pensions Institute, Cass Business School, co-author of "*VfM: Assessing value for money in defined contribution default funds*" among many other reports. She is a member of the Financial Services Consumer Panel, an adviser to the OFT for its 2013 DC report, an adviser to the OECD and to UK government departments, and a trustee of the Financial Inclusion Centre.
- Pauline Skypala, deputy capital markets editor and columnist, *Financial Times*, and former editor of FTfm, the fund management supplement. She joined the FT in 1999 to write about personal finance, and has covered savings and investment issues throughout her career.
- Peter Morris worked in the finance sector for 25 years and is now an independent researcher and commentator on savings and investment. He is author of the CSFI report "*Private Equity, Public Loss?*" and co-author of '*You're On Your Own: how policy produced Britain's pensions crisis*'.
- Jonathan Lipkin, director, public policy at the IMA where he is responsible for the development and external representation of the IMA's policies on pensions and long-term savings. Before the IMA, he worked for Oxford Analytica. He is also a member of the Advisory Board of the CASS Centre for Asset Management Research and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.
- Adrian Boulding, is Pensions Strategy Director at Legal & General – a leading pension provider that has now auto-enrolled half a million people into new workplace pension schemes. He is also a non-executive director of Pension Quality Mark, the independent body that recognises good money purchase pension schemes.

If you or a colleague would like to join us, please email [anna@csfi.org](mailto:anna@csfi.org) or call 020 7621 1056. As usual, sandwiches and wine will be provided.

Sincerely yours,  
Jane Fuller  
Co-director  
CSFI