

THE UKSA NEWSLETTER

UKSA
UK Shareholders'
Association

ISSUE 4

Welcome to the fourth issue of your **UKSA Newsletter**, which goes to all full and associate members. It complements *The Private Investor*, which full members receive.

First off the **UKSA Policy Team** is on target to send the Board our proposed response to the BEIS consultation on [Restoring trust in audit and corporate governance](#). It goes to the Board on 21 June.

Other work includes responses to FCA consultations on the treatment of [illiquid assets](#) and on [pension savings](#). We are also calling on the FCA to adjust its regulatory initiatives in a way that reflects the priorities and needs of consumers, rather than of the financial services industry. The full breadth of the Policy Team's work can be seen on the UKSA website by clicking [here](#).

Meanwhile there is progress at **Savers Take Control**, our grassroots campaign to raise public awareness of how the savings industry operates.

STC aims: 1) to help people get much better returns by explaining how to avoid most charges; 2) to exert more informed, independent pressure in relation to corporate behaviour, including executive pay.

The STC project is voluntary and entirely independent of the financial sector. It is an example of the way older generations can help younger generations. Many of our volunteers are retired from the financial sector. We want to help people everywhere to minimise the amount of savings and investments that gets extracted by the financial sector. Sadly, we cannot trust the financial sector to tell us the full story; [it is just not in their interest](#).

To take part in our discussions and contribute to STC, you need to be a full member of UKSA and be independent of the investment management and advice sectors.

A critical take on the FCA - The [Financial Conduct Authority](#) is really the only financial regulator with any responsibility for consumer outcomes. It does a vast amount of worthy stuff, the latest being a consultation about [A new Consumer Duty](#). Nevertheless, in our view it lacks the appetite to do what people really need, which is to point them to freely available information that exposes the total impact of costs.

Back in September 2020 the FCA issued a [Call for Input on Consumer Investments](#) (CFI). We filed a hefty, hard-hitting submission in December (long, but you can get the idea from the first few pages). None of the submissions have been published by the FCA, which we think is a disgrace. Click [here](#) to read our news story, where you can also find the submission.

Northern Rock news - We are pursuing options to gain compensation for our [Northern Rock Shareholder Action Group](#)'s case for compensation. UKSA director Sue Milton is working with the group leaders Dennis Grainger and Bill Brown to identify the steps necessary for getting compensation agreed and a clear idea of how we distribute that compensation. Bill's view is that "*as HMT had been responsible for the compensation to a large number of policyholders in Equity Life, ten years or more after the event, it should also be capable of handling NR compensation*". But he also sets out the 'devil in the detail', for example proving we are eligible for compensation.

If anyone would like to share ideas with the UKSA Board, please contact Sue Milton, nrsshag@uksa.org.uk.

Iona Bain is a name to watch. A few years ago Iona launched [The Young Money Blog | Helping You Understand Personal Finance](#) aimed at the younger generation, including those starting out in their working life. You can watch her videos on [YouTube](#). More recently she wrote a book during lockdown entitled [Own it!: how our generation can INVEST our way to a better future](#). It is an object lesson in communication with people who have little or no knowledge and therefore struggle to get a grip on their long-term finances. Martin White will review the book in the next edition of The Private Investor.

From education to well-being - It seems that financial education is no longer in vogue. What matters now is financial well-being. Banks across the Western world think they have salvaged their reputations after the 2008 financial crisis with a more holistic approach to the financial health of their customers. We recently took part in a European conference on financial well-being, which heard from some of the leading players such as ING and MetLife. The video can be viewed [here](#). Viewers can judge for themselves whether the industry is finally on the right track...

UKSA on Twitter - Huge credit to Sue Milton for ramping up our Twitter presence, engaging with users and lifting our follower count. It is easy to view UKSA's tweets, even without being signed up to Twitter. Just click the picture below to get started.



Associate members can take advantage of **half-price full membership** of UKSA in the first year by clicking [here](#).

The UKSA Board

2 June 2021