

NEW UKSIF CHAIR CALLS FOR CO-OPERATION ON RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT ACROSS UK FINANCIAL SERVICES

*CEO of HSBC Bank Pension Trust to be new Chair of UK Sustainable
Investment and Finance Association*

*CEO of HSBC Pension Trust, which won DC Pension Scheme of the Year 2014,
becomes new Chair of UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association*

London, 5th June 2014 – The UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF) is delighted to welcome Lesley Alexander as its new Chair starting 1st July.

Lesley, CEO of HSBC Bank Pension Trust (UK) Limited, will replace Martin Clarke who is stepping down as UKSIF Chair after he finishes his second two-year term in the role.

Lesley Alexander said:

“I am delighted to be taking on this role with UKSIF and building on the excellent work of Martin, Simon and the team.”

“Coming from an asset owner background, I see real value in pension funds and corporate sponsors working together on sustainable and responsible investment (SRI). With companies increasingly aiming to build strong sustainable businesses, there is a natural alignment of interest with pension schemes which look to provide long-term sustainable pensions for their members. The increasing recognition of global “mega-risks” such as climate change and resource depletion mean that sustainable investment must move up the agenda of everyone involved in pensions- trustees, administrators and sponsors offering both DB or DC schemes. I would encourage everyone involved to collaborate in developing environmental, social and governance (ESG) policies that influence investment strategy, fund manager behaviour and ultimately performance.”

“This approach to investment is now becoming evident in many areas and we need to boost it. It is also evident in the retail area and we need to work with stakeholders there too to spread adoption.”

Lesley Alexander went on to consider UKSIF:

“UKSIF’s track record and credibility in this space means it is well-placed to continue to support the sustainable investment and finance industry. I am particularly keen that we partner with like-minded organizations to promote the benefits of sustainable investment for both institutional and retail investors.”

Simon Howard, Chief Executive of UKSIF said:

“The team is delighted to welcome Lesley Alexander as our new Chair. Lesley offers extremely valuable professional experience from right across institutional investment value chain. This complements the strong body of knowledge and experience in retail already present on the Board and elsewhere in UKSIF. This is an exciting time for UKSIF as we look to build on our progress and achievements during Martin Clarke’s four years as Chair.”

Martin Clarke, departing Chair said:

“I’m very happy to be handing over the reins to Lesley Alexander and to see UKSIF continue to strengthen its work in the institutional investor space. I want to thank the Board, Simon and the team, and every UKSIF member for their support over the past 4 years.”

Contact

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Interviews with Lesley Alexander or Simon Howard are available on request.

Notes to Editor

Lesley Alexander

Lesley’s career began in 1980 when she joined Commercial Union’s pensions documentation section. In 1983 she joined Willis Faber, where she worked as a consultant developing and implementing PC based administration systems. She then took on the role of Pensions Policy and Communications Manager for Reed Elsevier, the publishing and information company.

In 2000 Lesley joined Bull Information Systems as UK Pensions Manager and two years later moved to Motorola, where she became responsible for Motorola’s European retirement plans and a member of Motorola’s Global Benefits Practice Leadership Team. She joined EMI in November 2006 as Head of Pensions, providing secretarial and administration services to the pension funds of EMI, Thorn, Thorn Lighting and the HMV Group. She has dealt with the high profile acquisitions of EMI by Terra Firma and of Thorn by Pension Corporation, outsourced the funds’ day to day pensions administration, supported the Thorn Trustees in a full buy out and supported the EMI Trustee Board in reaching a funding settlement with its sponsor, before joining HSBC Bank Pension Trust (UK) Limited as CEO in December 2010.

Lesley is a Fellow and Council Member of the Pensions Management Institute.

Martin Clarke

Martin Clarke is due to take over the HM Treasury role as Government Actuary later this year but is currently Executive Director of Financial Risk at the Pension Protection Fund (PPF) where his responsibilities include oversight of its investments.

He is also a Trustee of the LankellyChase Foundation, a trust which supports people with severe disadvantage, such as homelessness, extreme poverty, abuse or solvent misuse.

A Cambridge-educated mathematician, actuary and Harvard Business School alumnus, Martin’s previous career was spent in retail financial services with the Co-operative Insurance Society, which he joined in 1977.

As marketing director at Co-operative Insurance in the 1990s, he launched ethical investment products and introduced voting disclosure, an engagement overlay, and an award-winning social accountability programme.

Martin has a special interest in corporate social responsibility and the development of sustainable and responsible investment.

In 2011, Martin was awarded 'Pension Fund Risk Manager of the Year' by Risk Magazine.

Simon Howard

Simon Howard joined UKSIF as Chief Executive in May 2013. Simon is a former Group Chief Investment Officer who has over twenty years of investment management experience.

During a City career that started in 1990, he has been Group Chief Investment Officer at Liverpool Victoria, Head of Investments at Friends Provident and Managing Director at 3i Asset Management. Prior to joining UKSIF, Simon was Head of Sustainable Financial Markets at the charity Forum for the Future.

About the UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF)

The UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF) supports the UK finance sector as a global leader in advancing sustainable development through financial services. We promote and support responsible investment and other forms of finance that advance sustainable economic development, enhance quality of life and safeguard the environment. Founded in 1991, UKSIF has approximately 250 members including pension funds, asset managers, research providers, financial advisers, banks and non-governmental organisations. For more information, please visit www.uksif.org.

Photos

Lesley Alexander, Chair of UKSIF (incoming)



Simon Howard, CEO of UKSIF



Martin Clarke, ex-Chair of UKSIF

