



Priscum September Newsletter

MY PLAN FOR WORL DOMMINATION

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the September Edition of the Priscum Newsletter By Alex Wrightson

The most important thing in todays Newsletter is the **Priscum Christmas party**. I sent out an email eariler this month inviting people to the christmas lunch if you would like to come please let me know your menu choices.

I have seperated an article called Political mayhem in the UK! To a separate sheet although when you are reading this anything could have happened and what was up to date when I wrote it is now Out of date when it is sent to you. I herby announce my candacy for the **Next Prime Minister. Alex for PM!!** Here is my Manifesto. I think my new political party the **Standing In the Middle, Dressed Stupidly, Grabbing all Attention and Looking Stupid Party** will thrive. My Main policy's would be:

1. Lock up all Existing politicians in an old 60's Tower Block and blow it up
2. Turn the Houses of Parliament into a Museum
3. Give the Queen more powers
4. Implement my 2 point Virus plan and Gladiatorial Arena. This is both a social, Entertainment and an Environmental policy.

First you have a nice 1918 influenzas wiping out a third of the population of the world not discriminating to much but I would suspect that it would affect the sick and elderly the most, anyone who is 5 years older than Keith. My next Virus is a sterility Virus with 50% the surviving population made Sterile to reduce the surplus population of the world. For entertainment in this new and improved world you have a nice Gladiatorial arena where the people who are sterile fight it out for the Mobs entertainment. All these things would help the environment as there would be less people destroying the natural world.

- The Most Wonderful Time of the year
- Skyfall
- Political mayhem in the UK!
- Another Global recession and Trade War Machinations
- Fallout from Woodford Funds
- Helium Rising
- Priscum Update
- Pensions Update
- Mortgage Update
- Pension Regulator Update
- FCA Update

Priscum Update

It's the Most Wonderful Meal of the Year.

That's right it is the annual Priscum Christmas Lunch this Year we are holding it at the **Ansty Hall Hotel on the 5th of December**. (yes we have gone Posh) Coincidentally this was a possible choice for a wedding venue as well before I chose the Golf Club in Meridden. The Picture on the right was taken when I went to a wedding fayre there.

Assemble for **12:00 dinner will be at 12:30. The 5th of December** is also Keith's birthday he will be 21 again for the 30th time.

Main Road, Ansty, Nr Coventry, Warwickshire, CV7 9HZ

Dinner choices are:



Starter	Main	Pudding
Chicken liver parfait	Turkey roulade	Traditional Christmas fruit pudding
Smoked salmon, creamed cheese & dill	Pan-fried fillet of wild Hake	Chocolate & cherry delice
Celeriac & apple soup	Winter vegetables with cream cheese & sage Wellington	Caramelised toffee apple tart
		Festive cheese plate

- [A secret professional indemnity CEO explains why insurers are increasing premiums and reducing cover, and what IFAs can do about it](#)
- [Secret PI boss reveals why IFAs' premiums are skyrocketing](#)
- [Advisers must adapt to survive](#)
- [Advisers going into the market should think very carefully](#)
- [SMCR could lower costs](#)
- [Advisers "largely unprepared" for SMCR](#)
- [MP presses for change of adviser PI](#)

Pensions Update

- [How to split the pension on divorce](#)
- [Govt's new pension rules met with criticism](#)
- [PP Brexit Advisory Panel: Why schemes must prepare for all outcomes](#)
- [Annuity rates hit all-time low](#)
- [Best and worst workplace pension schemes named](#)
- [NHS fails to deliver pension statements on time](#)
- [Over 60s miss out on thousands of pounds of pension savings](#)
- [Using pensions for intergenerational IHT planning](#)
- [Savers confused by the role of risk in pensions](#)
- [Fewer pension transfers paying overseas tax charge](#)
- [Coffey replaces Rudd as pensions secretary](#)
- [Lib Dems promise end to Waspi woes](#)
- [How to split the pension on divorce](#)
- [Govt reviews pension flexibility for armed forces](#)
- [Altmann warns of 'disastrous' FCA pension rules](#)

FS19/15 - Effective competition in non-workplace pensions - states concerns about how low levels of consumer engagement and the complexity of charges mean very low levels of switching for non-workplace pensions, which ultimately damps down product competition. The FCA will be making recommendations to address this next year. There are an estimated 12.7 million non-workplace pensions accounts and around £470bn assets held or invested - more than double the AUA in contract-based defined contribution workplace pensions.

Mortgage Update

- [How brokers tackle mortgage fraud: 'There is no greater detective than a crinkly, grey haired adviser'](#)
- [Confidence in housing market slides amid anticipated price falls – BSA](#)
- [Mortgage SVRs remain a 'major factor' but many borrowers are not interested – analysis](#)
- [Hackney high-rise residents locked in by £0 valuation related to cladding risk](#)
- [First-time buyers sector booms as re-mortgages fall](#)
- [Five-year fixed mortgages double in five years to equal two-year deals](#)
- [Two-thirds of older generation refuse to downsize](#)
- [Government pledges £62m flood fund to protect over 9,000 homes](#)
- [Lenders keep their foot on the gas despite summer slowdown - Tan](#)
- [Lenders should allow vulnerable people to leave long term fixes without penalties – analysis](#)
- [UK house prices rise 1.8 per cent in August](#)
- [Buy-to-let mortgage rates fall as product numbers continue to swell](#)
- [Scrapping stamp duty is only way to quickly rebuild housing market – Phillips](#)
- [Brexit fears cause first September drop in house prices for nearly a decade](#)
- [Dodgy landlord handed record penalties](#)

Estate agents have been urged to automatically disclose air pollution figures to home buyers.

The industry trade body said providing this information should now be standard practice. "Air quality is now public information, and it will never not be again," said Mark Hayward, chief executive of NAEA Propertymark. His comments came as a new website was launched which details air pollution by postcode. The site, called addresspollution.org, uses data from King's College London to give the level of nitrogen dioxide. The site is currently limited to properties in London. It shows the concentration of nitrogen dioxide in the air and compares it to the World Health Organization's annual legal limit of 40 micrograms per cubic metre.

FCA Regulation Roundup

- [FCA hits back at accusations of inaction](#)
- [FCA to update rules on annuity quotes](#)
- [PFS urges regulator to look at Isa marketing](#)
- [Funding the FCA: a fourth way?](#)
- [FCA admits pension freedoms mistakes](#)
- [FCA urged to ditch 'complex' fees model](#)
- [FCA boss 'amused' at calls to resign over Mifid II](#)
- [FCA admits pension freedoms mistakes](#)

FCAs Brexit Update

How you should prepare for Brexit

The UK will leave the EU without an implementation period on 31 October 2019 unless a deal is approved or a further extension is agreed. We expect all firms to continue to plan for all scenarios, including a no-deal Brexit at the end of October 2019. We urge all firms to consider the implications of a no-deal exit and finalise their preparations. You should have plans in place to address any risks for your firm and any impact it could have for your customers.



What you should do if you have further questions

[Check our website](#) for more information, which includes information on specific financial service sectors. We have published a one pager on preparing for Brexit which can be found [here](#). We have set up a dedicated Brexit telephone line, so you can call us with questions you have about preparing your firm. You can call the Brexit line on **0800 048 4255** during business hours. The FCA will be running a series of digital adverts signposting firms to our Brexit webpages and our new phone line.

Be aware of relevant EEA transitional regimes and any deadlines

In the event of a no-deal Brexit UK firms doing business in the EEA through a passport will no longer be able to do so.

Whether firms need regulatory permissions to continue to do business in an EEA country will depend on the activity they are carrying on, the local law and the approach of the local authorities in that jurisdiction. Firms should make themselves aware of any relevant transitional regimes, with deadlines or registration requirements attached to them, that have been put in place by relevant EEA Member States. A [list](#) of dedicated Brexit websites hosted by financial regulators in EEA Member States that we have been made aware of is available on the FCA website. The FCA would draw particular attention to the [Luxembourg transitional regime](#) for existing contracts where firms must register by **15 September 2019**.

Respond to our consultation

On 6 September, we published a consultation on some further minor or consequential changes to our Handbook and BTS. These will take effect if the UK leaves the EU without a deal on 31 October. Further information and a link to the consultation can be found [here](#). The consultation closes on 4 October 2019.

Building cyber resilience in your firm

Supporting the drive for cyber resilience in financial services continues to be one of our top priorities, and we believe it should be for you too. We want firms to be resilient to cyber-attacks. For smaller firms, we are highlighting some of our publications to help you when considering your cyber arrangements. Following the steps we outline in them could save you time, money and reputation. As well as helping protect your customers, these tips will help support customers to protect themselves. We recommend you start with our [infographic](#) on cyber resilience, which gives tips on the foundations of good cyber security. It breaks down good practice into several key areas, giving you concrete actions to focus on, such as the importance of staff using strong passwords.

The second [publication](#) brings together insights on cyber resilience from across financial services. We've taken the best examples of good practice in firms that we think will help small and medium sized firms. We hope they will help you to consider where to prioritise your efforts.

And we'll update you about cyber resilience in future editions of Regulation round-up.

Financial Advisers**Register for Connect**

[Register for Connect](#) today – here's how!

From January 2020, you will be required to use Connect to update and confirm your firm details on annual basis, in line with your firm's Accounting Reference Date. Even if your firm details have not changed from the previous year, you will still need to log on to Connect and confirm that they are up to date. So, if your firm is not registered with Connect already, why wait?

Connect is the FCA's online platform that allows you to submit applications and notifications, such as approved persons, appointed representatives and MiFID II notifications. You can also track the progress of your applications with the FCA 24 hours a day, online.

We will be emailing, calling and writing to firms to encourage them to register on Connect ahead of the Firm Detail rules change coming into force from January 2020.

If you need support to register and update your firm details, visit [our website](#), watch our [video guide](#) or call 0300 500 0597.

We [consulted](#) on the changes to the Firm Detail rules and how firms could submit their information rules in December 2018.

Telling the FCA about competition investigations

Some firms are not notifying us immediately when a competition authority has started an investigation or imposed disciplinary measures or sanctions against them. Under [FCA rule SUP 15.3.15\(3\)](#), firms are required to notify us in these circumstances. We will continue to monitor this and will consider using our regulatory powers if non-compliance continues.

Retirement Outcomes Review – Consultation proposing minor amendments to our incoming rules

In Chapter 11 of [CP19/27](#), we consulted on three minor changes to the rules we published in January in the appendix to [PS19/1](#). Two of the proposed changes are to our incoming rules on 'wake-up' packs, the other is to our incoming rules on the annuity information prompt. Please send any comments you have on the consultation to us by 4 October 2019.

Mortgage Lenders

Proposed responsible lending changes – new implementation group

In March, we [consulted](#) on changes to our rules to help consumers who are up-to-date with payments, and not looking to borrow more, switch to a more affordable mortgage. We have set up an implementation group to consider some of the practical issues of making these changes. More information about this group, and the issues it is considering, is available on our [website](#).

Live & Local 2019/20 events

Our new series of monthly Q&A roundtable discussions for mortgage intermediaries and lenders across the UK begins in Glasgow on 29 October. There is no set agenda for these sessions; those attending each session decide the topics for discussion.

These informal monthly 'Ask the regulator' events will conclude in March 2020. Visit our [Live & Local webpage](#) for further details and to register.

General Insurance

Insurance companies can now submit data for new Directory

The data collection for the new Directory is open. Banks, building societies, credit unions and insurance companies (and their appointed representatives) must submit their data before 9 March 2020 using Connect. All other firms must submit between 9 December 2019 and 9 December 2020.

The new Directory will provide the clear, simple-to-access information firms need. It will also make it more difficult for unsuitable people to operate in the UK market.

Our [website](#) gives clear instructions and guidance on how to submit your directory persons data.

Banks, Building societies, Brokers

Banks, building societies, credit unions and insurance companies can now submit data for new Directory

The data collection for the new Directory is open. Banks, building societies, credit unions and insurance companies (and their appointed representatives) must submit their data before 9 March 2020 using Connect. All other firms must submit between 9 December 2019 and 9 December 2020.

The new Directory will provide the clear, simple-to-access information firms need. It will also make it more difficult for unsuitable people to operate in the UK market.

Our [website](#) gives you clear instructions and guidance on how to submit your directory persons data.

Letter to Remuneration Committee Chairs

In August 2019, [we wrote to the Remuneration Committee Chairs of Level 1 firms](#) (deposit takers and investment firms with total assets exceeding £50bn). We have published the letter on our website to share our findings from the 2018/19 remuneration round with all firms. The findings cover accountability, post-event risk adjustments and diversity and inclusion, as well as explaining our approach for assessing the remuneration policies and practices of Level 1 firms in 2019/20.

The letter also sets out key remuneration elements of our ongoing work on [transforming culture in financial services](#).

Consumer Credit

FG 18/6: Plans to update guidance on helping tenants find alternatives to high-cost credit

Following an amendment to the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Regulated Activities) Order 2001, we will update this [guidance](#). The amendment means that registered social landlords (RSLs) can now refer existing or potential tenants to some credit activities without having to get our authorisation. RSLs can now refer without authorisation:

- where the activity effects an introduction of an individual wishing to enter into a credit agreement
- where the introduction is to a credit union, community benefit society, registered charity (or subsidiary), community interest company limited by guarantee or subsidiary of an RSL, and
- for introductions provided fee-free.

The rest of FG18/06 still remains relevant to RSLs. Those carrying out credit broking activities which do not fall within the specific terms stated above still require authorisation as credit brokers.

Credit unions, banks, building societies, and insurance companies can now submit data for new Directory

The data collection for the new Directory is open. Banks, building societies, credit unions and insurance companies (and their appointed representatives) must submit their data before 9 March 2020 using Connect. All other firms must submit between 9 December 2019 and 9 December 2020.

The new Directory will provide the clear, simple-to-access information firms need. This will also make it more difficult for unsuitable people to operate in the UK market.

Our [website](#) gives clear instructions and guidance on how to submit your directory persons data.

News & publications

Key date - 14 September

On 14 September, new rules, known as Strong Customer Authentication (SCA) came into force. These rules enhance the security of payments and limit fraud.

New reports and notifications are now available, click on the [Reporting requirements](#) and [Notifications under PSD2](#) links to see the list of reports and notifications available.

E-money firms should note their version of REP018 and REP020 is available.

We want firms to implement SCA in a way that minimises disruption to consumers. We have agreed to exercise supervisory flexibility to give firms extra time to implement the requirements. More information on SCA can be found [here](#).

Senior Managers and Certification Regime (SM&CR) – resources to help you prepare

We have recently updated our [SM&CR webpages for solo-regulated firms](#). You can read about converting from the Approved Persons Regime, checklists for preparing and information on some of our commonly asked questions. Our [Guide to the SM&CR for solo-regulated firms](#) gives a useful overview of how SM&CR works. You can also watch our [on-demand webinar](#) and listen to our [podcast on SM&CR and culture](#). Read on to find out more about our latest podcasts.

FCA Webinar – Live Panel Discussion: Transforming culture through employee motivation and recognition

On Friday 4 October, we will be hosting a [live panel discussion](#) which will look at the role employee motivation and recognition can play in transforming culture.

Jonathan Davidson, the FCA's Executive Director of Retail Supervision and Authorisations, will host the discussion. He will be joined by guest panellists to discuss methods of motivation leaders may be overlooking and how these can drive culture change. Afterwards, there will be a live Q&A, where registered viewers can ask the panellists questions.

This webinar will be useful for financial services leaders and anyone interested in promoting healthy cultures in the workplace.

SM&CR podcasts – Certification and the Conduct rules

We have published two bite-size Inside FCA podcasts. These will be useful for firms currently preparing for SM&CR. David Blunt, Head of Conduct Specialists at the FCA, explains the following topics:

- [Certification and regulatory references](#): The purpose and scope, plus practical steps firms can take to prepare.
- [Conduct rules](#): The five Conduct Rules will apply to everyone doing financial services work. Our podcast explains the training requirements around them and offers practical tips for training staff.

These are a must-listen for any solo-regulated firms, as they set out key elements of the SM&CR.

Naughty people!

- [Historic advice keeps Sesame at top of complaints list](#)
- [Company director taken to court for pension failings](#)
- [Claims against adviser rise to £23m](#)
- [Regulator bans trustees after failed investment attempt](#)
- [Banker charged in FCA first](#)
- [Firm to pay out after moving clients to adviser platform](#)
- [Pension company wound up for 'mismanaging' £14m funds](#)
- [Claims against adviser reach FSCS](#)



- [Warning more British Steel claims are heading to FSCS](#)
- [Mattioli Woods ordered to pay £22k for bad advice](#)

- [Appointed rep to pay redress for principal firm error](#)
- [Pension company wound up for 'mismanaging' £14m funds](#)
- [LV apologises over adviser fee error](#)
- [Aegon taken to ombudsman after 'series of blunders'](#)
- [Car park investors targeted by scammers](#)
- [Failed wealth manager circled by 100 firms](#)

Fallout from Woodford Funds

- [Woodford trust told to stop new investments in debt wrangle](#)
- [Woodford recovery still has a way to go](#)
- [The FTSE 100 stocks Woodford is buying to rescue fund](#)
- [Fresh blow for Woodford over £270m holding](#)
- [Woodford trust told to stop new investments in debt wrangle](#)

Latest News

- [How to save for university costs](#)
- [Is it time for advisers to depart platforms?](#)
- [Entrepreneurs should diversify](#)
- [Historic advice keeps Sesame at top of complaints list](#)
- [Transact has 'no interest' in winning smaller clients](#)
- [Interest in interest-only products spikes](#)
- [DFM launches 'ultra-low cost' model portfolios](#)
- [Advisers back cash deposits despite rate tumble](#)
- [Govt told to hike capital gains tax rates](#)
- [Insurance policies prey on the time-poor](#)
- [Ethical investments on the rise](#)
- [Prime Minister backs review of controversial tax charge](#)
- [Advisers who buy multi-asset funds branded 'mugs'](#)
- [Investors pull £300m a week from UK equities](#)
- [How to fix UK productivity](#)
- [Investing in your child's future](#)
- [How to save for university costs](#)

Skyfall

Russia's weather service, recently reported that radiation levels had spiked sixteen times higher than normal in the far north of the country. This appeared to follow a fatal explosion in the port city of Severodvinsk where

Russia's state nuclear agency, said a nuclear-powered engine was being tested. Western military experts believe that this could be connected with a new nuclear-powered cruise missile, 'Skyfall' which President Putin referred to in a speech to the Russian parliament in March 2018.

Following the accident President Trump suggested that Russia was testing a nuclear-powered cruise missile. He tweeted that the US was developing a 'similar, though more advanced technology'. Besides the radiation fallout from the explosion, this is another worrying sign of a new 'cold war' arms race between Russia and the USA.



It sounds as if President Trump may have his own alarming nuclear plans. However, he has denied reports that he wants to explore using nuclear weapons to destroy hurricanes as 'fake news'.

Hurricane Dorian, a category 5 storm with winds of 185mph devastated the low-lying Bahamas last week. Scientists cannot say whether climate change is increasing the number of hurricanes, but the ones that do happen are likely to be more powerful and destructive. More hurricanes, like this one, are likely to hit the US but we doubt this will change President Trump's views on climate change. While the planet is heating up, relations between the US and its rival super-powers, China and Russia, have been growing colder.

Another Global recession and Trade War Machinations

In Europe, 'flash' manufacturing activity for August improved slightly but remains in contraction territory with Germany the weakest country. **Eurozone business confidence fell to its lowest level since 2012.**

US/China trade talks continued to be confusing, but it seems as if **the US and China will now meet in October rather than September.** Deputy-level meetings will instead take place in September. However, there was some relief in Asia, **with Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam announcing the withdraw of the China extradition bill.** This should help defuse tensions but is unlikely to mark an end to the protests for full democratic rights which are now in their fourteenth week.



US manufacturing activity contracted for the first time in three years and **there was a notable decrease in business confidence.** The Federal Reserve (Fed) monthly 'Beige Book' economic report said the US economy is expanding at a modest pace with many businesses still optimistic despite tariff and trade uncertainty. However, **the Fed members still appear divided over interest rate policy** with one calling for a 0.5% cut, while another argued there was no need to ease.

In China, activity in the services sector improved to a three-month high but export growth turned negative in August. **The authorities provided more support by cutting the bank reserve requirement ratio to stimulate the economy and support small businesses.**

China lodged a formal complaint with the **World Trade Organisation over the latest US tariffs.** Trump tweeted 'we are doing well in our negotiations with China' but once again warned China not to wait for the outcome of the US Presidential election as any trade deal will be much tougher when he is re-elected. **It remains unclear whether the two sides can bridge substantial differences.** China has insisted all tariffs be scrapped before any deal while President Xi is also under pressure not to be seen caving in to US demands on structural reform.

The ongoing trade and diplomatic dispute between South Korea and Japan, was reflected in the latest car export data. **Japanese car sales in South Korea dropped by 57% in August.** Meanwhile, Japan's second quarter economic growth was revised down to an annualised 1.3% due to lower business investment.

In the UK British Retail Consortium sales data for August showed flat sales volumes, as consumers cut back on non-essential purchases. Construction activity dipped slightly in July, but **the sector saw the biggest drop in new orders** since the financial crisis. The service sector also contracted in August, **suggesting the UK economy may have shrunk by 0.1% in the third quarter.**

Marks & Spencer has been demoted from the UK's share index of 100 largest quoted companies. It is another casualty of the structural shift to online retailing in the UK and a reminder that businesses continually need to evolve and adapt to survive. Sadly, 'Established 1884' counts for very little these days with either consumers or investors.

Helium (He), rising

Helium is an inert gas with one of the lowest boiling points of any element. It is therefore used as a cooling medium in a range of applications from satellites to medical MRI scanners, as well as the Large Hadron Collider. A mixture of helium and oxygen is also used by deep sea divers.

Helium gas is formed by the decay of radioactive rock and deposits are collected as a by-product of the gas industry. As the process to separate helium from natural gas is expensive and time consuming it is relatively rare. There is no central wholesale price for helium because it is not traded on global markets.

The US national helium reserve which was established as a strategic store for helium for US airships is the main supplier of the gas and holds annual auctions. However, the US government indicated that the last auction in August 2018 was likely to not recur until 2021. As a result, the average price for crude helium increased by 135% as industrial users sought to stockpile. One of the UK's biggest helium suppliers, BOC has warned that orders may be restricted due to the current shortage.

If you are planning any birthday celebrations it looks as if the price of helium filled party balloons is likely to keep going up and up. Following last year's CO₂ shortage, the latest helium shortage is a reminder that many industries face day-to-day challenges from raw material availability and cost inflation.

It's not just helium that is going up. Police have reported a huge rise in the number of catalytic converters being stolen from cars. Thieves are sliding under cars and using high-powered cutting tools to detach the box from the exhaust pipes. Catalytic converters contain palladium and rhodium. Both rare elements have skyrocketed in price in the last eighteen months.

