



JULY 2007 CPD TOPICS

News and updates

The monthly online CPD update service provides an online summary of all the important developments in the world of financial services. This month's topics are detailed below. After reading the online summary the learner completes an online assessment to demonstrate their understanding and must obtain a mark of 50% to pass. After taking the monthly assessment the online CPD certificate is automatically updated with the test result and CPD time of 1.5 hours.

A. PENSIONS

1. Pension Policy Institute believes £3,000 Npss cap would be 'sufficient' for low earners
2. 'Pension champions' to provide help in the workplace
3. Government believes that Personal Accounts 'will complement existing pensions'
4. Regulation issues - First Financial Support Directions
5. Gilt rate for drawdown

B. SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

1. Extra regulation for private equity firms - FSA
2. ABI launches a review of the life and pension fund sectors
3. Hong Kong returns poor 10 years after handover
4. LSE finds the perfect partner
5. Bonds - Former safe haven is experiencing market volatility

C. ECONOMY

1. IVA figures rise 50%
2. BoE holds base rate at 5.50%

D TAXATION AND TRUSTS

1. Revised AML rules give clarity to property trusts

E. PROTECTION

1. Bupa sells hospitals for £1.44bn
2. CI industry still failing to gain consumer trust
3. Term sales up but income protection down according to recent research
4. What to do about tax when someone dies

F. MORTGAGES

1. Energy-assessors.com to close as a result of Hip shambles
2. One in four mortgages are interest-only
3. Offset mortgages grow to £29bn in 2006

G. COMPLIANCE

1. IFA firm receives £42,000 fine
2. TCF breaches account for large proportion of FSA fines
3. Best execution 'biggest MiFID challenge'
4. FSA intervenes with 300 'misleading' adverts every year
5. FSA publishes final regulatory fees and levies for 2007/08
6. FSA – New investment business rules mark significant move to principles-based regulation
7. FSA – MiFID permissions and notifications guide

H. MISC

1. IFA qualifications split into A' Level and degree categories
2. Second increase in minimum annual paid leave entitlement delayed
3. EU blames UK regulators for Equitable Life crisis
4. FSA urged to bin commission
5. Royal Mail seeks five-day service
6. FSSC – Launches new National Skills Academy for Financial Services

FOCUS ITEM - Retail Distribution Review (RDR)

1. FSA chairman partially blames regulation for the need for the Retail Distribution Review (RDR)
2. FSA believes that splitting advice 'will boost mass-market appeal'
3. RDR committee chair states that a new General Financial Adviser category should become permanent
4. Outgoing Tiner joins the 'independent' debate
5. AIFA criticises definition of 'independence' in response to FSA's Retail Distribution Review
6. RDR - calls for higher exam standards
7. RDR - Three-step IFA sustainability plan launched