

The ICSA Company Secretaries Conference & Exhibition 2010



5 October 2010 ■ Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London

Mapping the new landscape

In the wake of big changes to company law and corporate governance in the UK, and as the UK emerges from recession, company secretaries are facing a transformed business environment. This year's ICSA Company Secretaries Conference will look at that new landscape and the opportunities it presents, and will also examine what it means for company boards, investors, the markets and other stakeholders.

In the morning, we look at the latest developments in corporate governance, and in particular the recent consultations on the guidance on improving board effectiveness and the investor governance code, and the surprise return of the OFR. We also examine the wider legal and regulatory environment, particularly in the wake of the reform of company law, and consider the business priorities for the new coalition Government. In the afternoon we focus upon market issues, with a look at M&A activity in the wake of the Cadbury takeover, and we ask what sort of future – if any – there is for AIM. Delegates will also be offered a choice of three streams, looking at corporate finance, European moves on investment management, and the implications for business of the new Bribery Act.

This year's conference Chair is freelance journalist and broadcaster **Sara Coburn**.

Programme

- 08.30 Conference opens, registration and tea/coffee
- 09.10 **Introduction and welcome**
David Wilson FCIS, Chief Executive, ICSA
- 09.15 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Mapping the new landscape I**
Sir Howard Davies, Director, London School of Economics and Political Science
- 09.40 **Unfinished business**
The UK Corporate Governance Code may finally be here, but work continues apace in two key areas: the reworking of the guidance on improving board effectiveness, and the implementation of the new stewardship code for investors. So where are we now?
Peter Montagnon, Senior Investment Advisor, Financial Reporting Council (FRC)
- 10.05 **A welcome return?**
In a surprise move, the new Government in May announced its intention to revive the Operation and Financial Review, or OFR. This session considers what the OFR Mark II might include.
Sallie Pilot, Director of Research and Strategy, Black Sun plc
- 10.30 Tea/coffee
- 11.00 **Record management**
The final implementation of the Companies Act took place in October last year, ushering in a new regime for the Registrar of Companies. So how is that regime working out – and what's next on the Registrar's agenda?
Gareth Jones, Registrar of Companies and Chief Executive, Companies House
- 11.25 **Shared interests, shared priorities**
May 2010 saw the arrival of the new coalition Government, and with it new political and economic policies and priorities. In this session, we look at what those priorities are shaping up to be – and their effects upon businesses in the UK.
Anna Leach, Principal Economist, Tax and Fiscal Policy, Confederation of British Industry (CBI)
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- 11.50 **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: The shape of the thing**
 Now the dust is settling on the company law and corporate governance reforms, and with a new Government in office, how does the new landscape look to the business community? In this session, our panel of practitioners give us an inside view.
Julia Casson FCIS, Director, Board Insight Limited
Tony Little, Head of Corporate Governance, Gartmore
Claire Davies, Head of Secretariat, Lloyds Banking Group plc
Gillian Karran-Cumberlege, Managing Partner, Fidelio Partners LLP
- 12.35 Lunch
- 13.25 **CHOICE OF THREE STREAMS**
- STREAM: A fate worse than debt?**
 In April, the Insolvency Service issued a series of changes to the UK's insolvency law, the latest in an ongoing programme of modernisation. In this session, our panellists consider the changes, and look ahead to the outcomes from the broader programme of reform.
Stephen Leinster, Director of Policy, The Insolvency Service
Peter Manning, Partner, Simmons & Simmons
+ 2 others TBC
- STREAM: Hedging their bets**
 Even as Britain's new Government took office, it faced its first test of nerves as Brussels voted on controversial new plans to regulate hedge funds and private equity firms. So what will the new rules mean for British business?
Colin Ellis, Chief Economist and Head of Research, British Private Equity & Venture Capital Association (BVCA)
+ 3 others TBC
- STREAM: Responsible behaviours**
 The new Bribery Act will come into force in April 2011, modernising and consolidating the existing laws on bribery and creating a number of new offences, including a ground breaking corporate offence of failing to prevent bribery. In this session, our panellists consider some of the key provisions in the Act.
Sterl Greenhalgh, Partner, Grant Thornton
Ian Trumper, Board Member, Transparency International
Stephen Gentle, Partner, Kingsley Napley
Robert Amaee, Head of Anti-Corruption, Proceeds of Crime & International Assistance, Serious Fraud Office
- 14.55 Tea/coffee
- 15.25 **Ready for actions?**
 It's been a challenging year for corporate actions, with a number of high-profile mergers, fresh doubts post-Cadbury over the value-adding merits of hostile takeovers, and questions about the standards of M&A accounting. So should companies be battening down the hatches?
Dr Roger Barker, Head of Corporate Governance, Institute of Directors
- 15.50 **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Taking AIM**
 As corporate financing has dried up and the management of risk moved up the corporate agenda, several companies have moved their listings from the Alternative Investment Market, or AIM, to the main market. So does AIM have a future?
Jon Harris, Partner, Pinsent Masons
Alexander Keepin, Partner, Charles Russell LLP
Lorraine Young FCIS, Director, Lorraine Young Company Secretarial Services
Guy Peters, Managing Director, Corporate Finance, Seymour Pierce
- 16.30 **FINAL ADDRESS: Mapping the new landscape II**
SPEAKER TBC
- 16.55 Closing words
- 17.00 Close, followed by **drinks in the Benjamin Britten lounge**