Westminster Business Forum Keynote Seminar: Priorities for regulating consumer credit in the UK - standards, consumer protection and managing the growth of unsecured lending

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 12th October 2017 Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET



Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 9.05 Chair's opening remarks Lord Sharkey
- 9.05 9.40 Policy priorities for regulating high-cost credit and overdrafts
 David Geale, Director of Policy, Financial Conduct Authority
 Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.40 10.40 Next steps for the regulation of high-cost credit - the price cap, conduct, consumer protection and access to credit Following the findings of the FCA's consultation on high-cost credit markets, what further measures, if any, should be considered to protect consumers in areas of the market such as rent-to-own, home-collected credit, catalogue credit, pawnbroking, and guarantor and log-book loans? What has been the impact of the payday loan price cap on the industry; has the cap excluded consumers from credit, and what evidence is there to suggest that it has driven individuals towards illegal lenders? In light of the growth of the vehicle finance sector - and following the FCA's recently raised concerns that there may be a lack of transparency, potential conflicts of interest and irresponsible lending in the sector - what more could be done to protect consumers from potential harm and would an intervention by regulators in the market be appropriate? Ahead of the extension of the Senior Managers and Certification Regime to all authorised firms from 2018, and as the FCA considers proposals on pay incentives, what further measures could be taken by stakeholders to support conduct within the industry - for example, ensuring the transparency of point of sale charges? Joe Lane, Senior Policy Researcher, Citizens Advice Professor Eva Lomnicka, Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London and Barrister, 4 New Square Chambers Simon Empson, Managing Director, Broadspeed Richard Thompson, Principal Ombudsman and Quality Director, Financial Ombudsman Service Jason Wassell, Chief Executive, Consumer Finance Association Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 10.45 Chair's closing remarks Lord Sharkey
- 10.45 11.15 Coffee
- 11.15 11.20 Chair's opening remarks Chair to be announced

11.20 - 12.10 Competition and transparency in consumer banking - priorities for the regulation of overdrafts and the credit card market

How far will the FCA's proposed rules for credit card firms - including the use of prompts to encourage customers to make faster repayments if they can afford to do so - address current concerns around the growth of persistent debt, and what else might be considered to incentivise the market to intervene in cases where customers are approaching these types of difficulties? Following the CMA's Retail Banking Market Investigation and the FCA's subsequent call for input, what further measures could be taken to support transparency and competition within current account and retail banking markets? For example, how does the free-if-in-credit model impact on different types of consumers, and should more be done to support those that require the use of unarranged overdrafts? **Richard Koch**, Head of Cards, UK Finance

Jenny Ross, Deputy Editor, Which? Money Magazine Dr Abdul Karim Aldohni, Senior Lecturer in Law, Newcastle University

Questions and comments from the floor

12.10 - 12.55 The impact of household debt - responsible lending, addressing problem debt and its implications for the UK economy

Following the Financial Policy Committee's decision to increase capital requirements in light of rising levels of household debt and unsecured lending, as well as the PRA's review which concluded that consumer credit lenders are potentially more vulnerable to loss during periods of stress, what more can be done by stakeholders to ensure responsible lending practices and financial stability across the consumer credit industry? With recent research suggesting that missed debt repayments are at a 10-year high, what further measures, if any, should be considered to support consumers in problem debt, as well as ensuring that households can continue debt repayments during a potential economic downturn? What initiatives might be considered by the debt collection industry to further ensure that collection practices do not exacerbate instances of problem debt - for example, should a period of suspended enforcement action be considered for vulnerable in-debt consumers?

Vicky Pryce, Board Member, Cebr Kevin Still, Chief Executive Officer, Debt Managers Standards Association Jane Tully, Director of External Affairs, Money Advice Trust Questions and comments from the floor