



All Party Parliamentary Group on Insurance & Financial Services

Lord Sheikh leads debate on terrorism compensation

PROPOSALS FOR improving the compensation offered to British citizens who are victims of terrorism while abroad have been debated in the House of Lords.

Group member Lord Sheikh has been active in the debates, bringing his knowledge of the insurance industry to bear on *The Victims of Terrorism Bill* put forward by Labour peer Lord Brennan who said he thought that £3m a year would "be an adequate fund to meet the needs of such people."

He proposed a government backed scheme similar to Pool Re in the commercial property market: "Pool Re now holds reserves of £1.66bn; and through a retrocession agreement, the government has been paid from that fund, since it was established, over £200m. I await with interest anyone who suggests that £3m is a figure that requires some special attention in the light of such numbers."

Lord Sheikh, who supports the overall aims of the Bill, questioned this approach: "I have heard people say that reserves built up by Pool Re could perhaps be released to pay for injuries to people who travel abroad. As I have said, Pool



Sheikh: sympathy for victims

Re has reserves of more than £1.6bn, but I believe that the release of these funds would be unwise as the reserves are necessary to pay large claims following a major incident or incidents occurring in future."

The ABI does not support the bill, arguing that more than 50% of travel insurance policies provide compensation to cover terrorism.

Home Information Packs arrive in the housing market

THE CONTROVERSIAL Home Information Packs will hit the housing market on 1 June and are already facing a legal challenge from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

RICS has applied for a judicial review on the grounds that the government did not consult properly prior to the introduction of HIPs. This follows widespread criticism of the lack of preparation for their introduction.

The group will have a chance to hear first hand how the introduction of HIPs have gone and what effect it has had on



the market at a presentation on 12 June. A range of property market practitioners will be available to give their views.

News Bulletin

No 12 May 2007

Intermediary groups set to air their concerns at joint dinner in July

MEMBERS WILL hear from a range of intermediary organisations in the general insurance and life insurance markets at a dinner hosted by the British Insurance Brokers' Association on 11 July.

As well as top officials from BIBA, members will also hear from representatives of the Institute of Insurance Brokers and the Association of Independent Financial Advisers, giving a rare opportunity to get to grips with the major issues that confront all brokers and independent financial advisers.

Top of the list will be the a range of concerns about the current regulatory regime and the approach of the Financial Services Authority to the intermediary sector. It will also be an opportunity for members to hear first hand how the huge changes in ownership and the structure of the intermediary sector are likely to impact on customers.

Chairman: John Greenway MP

Deputies: Baroness Turner of Camden, Vince Cable MP, Lord Hunt of Wirral

Hon Secs: Sir John Butterfill MP, Jim Cousins MP

Technical Consultants

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

Contact: David Morey, 020 7804 2684
david.morey@uk.pwc.com

Administration



Contact: David Worsfold,
Group Editorial Services Director,
Incisive Media
020 7484 9752
david.worsfold@incisivemedia.com

For regular up-dates on the group go to www.appgifs.org.uk