



# *All Party Parliamentary Group on* **Insurance & Financial Services**

## **Protection campaign brings its message to Parliament**

PROMOTING PROTECTION is a campaign launched by *Cover* magazine to encourage the protection market to unite behind a series of key themes that underline the importance of buying adequate life and health insurance.

It was launched in response to an overwhelming demand from independent financial advisers at the autumn *Cover* Forum for a concerted industry-wide campaign to tackle the huge protection gap that exists and which is, according to most experts, growing larger. Many in the audience at the Forum wanted the industry to launch a generic advertising campaign and Promoting Protection aims to test the level of industry support for such an idea. It



is also exploring some alternative approaches to a fully fledged generic campaign that might prove more attractive to the major companies in the market, such as agreement around common themes and messages that all protection providers and IFAs could use in their own advertising and promotion.

The campaign is already gaining widespread backing and campaign supporters will be making a presentation to the group on 27 March at 11am in Committee Room 18. More details on [www.promotingprotection.co.uk](http://www.promotingprotection.co.uk).

## **TPAS keen to build fresh links with the group**

WITH PENSIONS reform very high on the political agenda there will be a chance early in the new session to meet The Pensions Advisory Service at a reception in the Terrace Pavilion on 27 February, starting at 7pm.

James Purnell, the pensions minister will be speaking about the government's reform plans which it set out in the Pensions Bill. This had its first reading in the House of Commons on 28 November.

TPAS will be using the reception to introduce members to its work in the areas of giving independent advice and information on all aspects of pensions provision and in the key task of helping resolve disputes over private pensions provision.

The reception is being co-sponsored by All Party Group members Baroness Hollis and Sir John Butterfill. Baroness Turner is a member of the TPAS board.

## **Membership hits new peak**

THE RECENT expansion in the group's membership has taken it to a new high as it enters its 16th year of operation.

Its work on flooding and fraud in particular, has attracted members keen to be kept in touch with the latest thinking on these key topics. Over 60 MPs and Peers from the three major parties now support the group.

## **Website gets its own blog**

WHEN it was launched the core mission of the group was to create a better channel of communication between the industry and Parliament, so adding a 'blog' to the group's website is a natural move.

It is being written and up-dated by David Worsfold and can be found at <http://blog.appgifs.org.uk/>. People can add their own comments.

## *News Bulletin*

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## **Anti-fraud message hits home as organised gangs extend their reach**

THE THREAT from organised criminal gangs staging motor accidents is spreading at an alarming rate, the Insurance Fraud Bureau told the group recently.

IFB research showed there have been an estimated 22,600 staged accidents since 1999, although their growth is so rapid that it will only be 18 months before another 20,000 take place.

There are clusters of staged accidents in the North-west, Birmingham and parts of London but the gangs running them are spreading fast by selling the methodology to other gangs on a franchise basis. Members were told that it takes about a year for a gang to become effective but that, once they are, staged accidents are intensively profitable, earning about £30,000 to £40,000 a crash. The biggest gangs are running more than 300 crashes a year.

**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

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