

## Chapter 2

# Arch cru Consumer Redress Scheme

## 2.1 Application and subject matter of the scheme

### 2.1.1

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#### Application to firms which made personal recommendations.....

- (1) The whole of this chapter applies to a *firm* which made a *personal recommendation* in relation to an Arch cru fund, after which a *consumer* made an investment in the Arch cru fund, and to which the suitability requirements (specified at paragraph 5.1R of the instructions in ■ CONRED 2 Annex 13 ) applied.
- (2) The Arch cru funds referred to in *CONRED* are any of the following sub-funds of the CF Arch cru Investment Funds and CF Arch cru Diversified Funds:
  - (a) CF Arch cru Investment Portfolio;
  - (b) CF Arch cru Specialist Portfolio;
  - (c) CF Arch cru Income Fund;
  - (d) CF Arch cru Balanced Fund;
  - (e) CF Arch cru Global Growth Fund; or
  - (f) CF Arch cru Finance Fund.

### 2.1.2

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#### Application to persons who have assumed a firm's liabilities.....

- (1) The whole of this chapter also applies to a *person* who has assumed a liability (including a contingent one) in respect of a failure by a *firm* to whom this chapter applies.
- (2) A *person* in (1) must either:
  - (a) perform such of the obligations as the *firm* is required to perform under this chapter; or
  - (b) ensure that those obligations are performed by the *firm*;and must notify the *FCA*, by 29 April 2013, by email to ArchCruProject@fca.org.uk, as to whether that *person* or the *firm*, or both, will be performing those obligations.
- (3) References in this chapter to a *firm* are to be interpreted as referring to a *person* in (1) where the context so requires.

**Wider application of certain provisions**

2.1.3

**R**

■ CONRED 2.2, ■ CONRED 2.4.1R (1), ■ CONRED 2.8.1 R, ■ CONRED 2.8.2 R, ■ CONRED 2.8.3 R and ■ CONRED 2.8.4 G also apply to any *firm* which has carried out any of the following *regulated activities* for a *customer* in relation to an Arch cru fund:

- (1) *advising on investments*; or
- (2) *arranging (bringing about) deals in investments*; or
- (3) *making arrangements with a view to transactions in investments*; or
- (4) *managing investments*;

except for a *firm* which, at the relevant time, was a platform service provider; meaning it:

- (5) provided a service which involved *arranging* and safeguarding and administering assets;
- (6) distributed *retail investment products* which were offered to *retail clients* by more than one product provider; and
- (7) did not carry on the *regulated activities of advising on investments or managing investments*.

**Duration of the scheme**

2.1.4

**R**

The consumer redress scheme created by this chapter comes into force on 1 April 2013 and has no end date.

**Subject matter of the scheme**

2.1.5

**R**

The subject matter of the scheme is whether a *firm* complied with the suitability requirements (specified in paragraph 5.1R of ■ CONRED 2 Annex 13 R) in cases where the conditions in ■ CONRED 2.4.2 R are satisfied (these are referred to in this chapter as "scheme cases").

2.1.6

**R**

A scheme case ceases to be within the subject matter of the scheme if the *firm*:

- (1) did not have sufficient information to determine the scheme case and has taken the required steps to obtain further information from the *consumer* but still does not have sufficient information (as more fully described in ■ CONRED 2.5.9 R); or
- (2) has not received an opt-in from the *consumer* by 22 July 2013 (or later, where the provision in ■ CONRED 2.5.1R (2) in relation to exceptional circumstances applies); or
- (3) is unable to contact a *consumer* (as more fully described in ■ CONRED 2.8.3R (2)).

2.1.7 **G** Where the *firm* has not received, by 22 July 2013, a response from the *consumer* to the letter required by ■ CONRED 2.4.4 R or (where applicable) to the letter required by ■ CONRED 2.4.5R (1) or ■ (2), the *firm* should handle any complaint received from a *consumer* after this date in relation to the sale of Arch cru funds in accordance with the complaint handling rules in *DISP*, unless ■ CONRED 2.5.1R (2) (in relation to exceptional circumstances) applies.

**Defined terms**

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2.1.8 **R** Certain words and phrases specific to CONRED are defined in ■ CONRED App 1 and the *Glossary*. All words in italics are defined in the *Glossary*.



## 2.3 Notifications and reports to the FCA

**2.3.1** **R** Notifications and other reports required by these *rules* to the *FCA* must be sent to the email address specified.

**2.3.2** **G** If the *firm* is to send an encrypted email to the *FCA* it will need to download the public PGP key from the *FCA* website and import the key into its email client software.

## 2.4 Consumer redress scheme: identifying scheme cases and inviting consumers to request a review

### Deadlines to complete the steps in this section

2.4.1

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- (1) By 29 April 2013, a *firm* must take the first and second steps set out in this section and send a *redress determination* in the form set out in ■ CONRED 2 Annex 1 R to any *customer* in ■ CONRED 2.1.3 R who falls outside the subject matter of the scheme.
- (2) A *firm* must, by the deadlines set out in ■ CONRED 2.4.5 R, take the third step set out in this section.

### First step: identify cases within subject matter of scheme

2.4.2

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The first step is to identify all cases within the subject matter of the scheme; ie, where each of the following conditions is satisfied ("scheme cases")

- (1) the *firm* made a *personal recommendation* to a *consumer* to invest in an Arch cru fund specified above at ■ CONRED 2.1.1R (2) and after that recommendation the *consumer* did so invest;
- (2) the suitability requirements (specified at paragraph 5.1R of ■ CONRED 2 Annex 13 R) applied to the recommendation;
- (3) the law applicable to the obligations of the *firm* arising in connection with the *personal recommendation* is that of a UK territory (that is, England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland) (see ■ CONRED 2.4.7 R);
- (4) if the applicable law in (3) is that of England, Wales or Northern Ireland, the *consumer's* investment in Arch cru funds was on or after 13 December 2006;
- (5) if the applicable law in (3) is that of Scotland:
  - (a) the *consumer's* investment in the Arch cru fund was on or after 13 December 2007; or
  - (b) where the *consumer's* investment in the Arch cru fund was before 13 December 2007, the *consumer* did not know, and could not with reasonable diligence have known, before 13 December 2007, that he had suffered loss;

- (6) the *consumer* has not, prior to 1 April 2013, accepted an offer of redress from the *firm* or other *person* in full and final settlement of all potential claims arising out of the recommendation in (1); and
- (7) the *consumer* has not, prior to 1 April 2013, asked the *Financial Ombudsman Service* to deal with a complaint against the *firm* arising out of the recommendation in (1).

**2.4.3** **E** The adoption by a *firm* of any date earlier than the date of suspension (13 March 2009) as the date when the *consumer* knew, or could with reasonable diligence have known, that he had suffered loss, may be relied upon as tending to show contravention of **CONRED 2.4.2 R**.

**Second step: send initial letters to consumers**

**2.4.4** **R** The second step is, for all scheme cases, to send to the *consumer* a letter in the form set out in **CONRED 2 Annex 2 R** inviting the *consumer* to opt-in to the scheme.

**Third step: send follow-up letters to consumers**

**2.4.5** **R** The third step is to do the following:

- (1) for all scheme cases where the *firm* has not received an opt-in, by 27 May 2013, the *firm* should send the *consumer* an opt-in reminder (in the form set out in **CONRED 2 Annex 3 R**) by 3 June 2013 (unless the *firm* has received an opt-in in the interim);
- (2) for all scheme cases where the *firm* has not received, by 24 June 2013, an opt-in or (where applicable) by (1), the *firm* should send the *consumer* an opt-in reminder letter (in the form set out in **CONRED 2 Annex 4 R**) by 1 July 2013 (unless the *firm* has received an opt-in in the interim); and
- (3) for all scheme cases where the *firm* has not received, by 22 July 2013 an opt-in or, where applicable by (1) or (2), the *firm* should send the *consumer* a letter in the form set out in **CONRED 2 Annex 5 R** by 29 July 2013 (unless the *firm* has received an opt-in in the interim when it must follow the steps in **CONRED 2.5.1R (2)**).

**2.4.6** **R** For the purpose of **CONRED 2.4.5 R**:

- (1) an 'opt-in' is an indication from, or on behalf of, a *consumer* that he wishes the *firm* to carry out a case review (as detailed in **CONRED 2.5**); and
- (2) if a *firm* receives a *complaint* relating to the subject matter of the scheme from a *consumer* on or after 1 April 2013 and before 23 July 2013 it must treat the *complaint* as an 'opt in' to the scheme.



**Applicable law**

2.4.7

**R**

For the purposes of ■ CONRED 2.4.2R (3), the applicable law is:

- (1) where, in connection with the *personal recommendation*:
  - (a) the *consumer* has agreed to the *firm's terms of business*; and
  - (b) these include a clause providing for the application of the law of a particular UK territory (that is, England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland);  
that UK territory; or
- (2) if (1) does not apply: where the *firm* and the *consumer* are habitually resident in the same UK territory, and the *personal recommendation* is made there, that UK territory; or
- (3) if neither (1) nor (2) applies: where the conditions in ■ CONRED 2.4.8 R apply, the UK territory in which the *consumer* is habitually resident; or
- (4) if none of (1), (2) or (3) applies: the UK territory in which the *firm* made the *personal recommendation*.

2.4.8

**R**

The conditions referred to in ■ CONRED 2.4.7R (3) are that:

- (1) in the UK territory in which the *consumer* has his habitual residence, either:
  - (a) the contract under which the *personal recommendation* was provided was preceded by a specific invitation addressed to the *consumer*, or by advertising, and the *consumer* took all the steps necessary to engage the *firm*; or
  - (b) the *firm* or its agent received the *consumer's* order; and
- (2) the *personal recommendation* was provided at least in part in that UK territory.

**Reporting requirement: opted-in scheme cases**

2.4.9

**R**

By 29 July 2013, a *firm* must report to the FCA by email to archcruereview@fca.org.uk ; or (if the email is encrypted) archcruereviewpgp@fca.org.uk with the following information:

- (1) the total number of scheme cases (cases falling within ■ CONRED 2.4.2 R);
- (2) the total number of investments in Arch cru funds resulting from the *regulated activities* for a *customer* in ■ CONRED 2.1.3 R which fall outside the subject matter of the scheme (see ■ CONRED 2.1.5 R and ■ CONRED 2.4.2 R), with a summary explanation of the reason why in each case; and
- (3) the total number of opted-in scheme cases.

[Note: for details of how to obtain an encryption key see *guidance* above at ■ CONRED 2.3.2 G]

## 2.5 Consumer redress scheme: case review

### Deadline to complete the steps in this section

- 2.5.1 **R** A *firm*:
- (1) in respect of any scheme case where the *firm* has received an opt-in by 22 July 2013, must take the steps set out in this section by 9 December 2013; and
  - (2) in respect of any scheme case where the *firm* has received an opt-in later than 22 July 2013, must take the steps set out in this section if the *consumer's* failure to comply with that time limit was caused by exceptional circumstances; in such a case, the deadline in (1) is extended according to the length of the delay caused by the *consumer's* failure to comply with the time limit.
- 2.5.2 **G** The *guidance* on exceptional circumstances at **CONRED 2.6.3 G** is relevant to **CONRED 2.5.1R (2)**.
- 2.5.3 **R**
- (1) For any scheme case where the *firm* has received an opt-in, but the *firm*, does not consider **CONRED 2.5.1R (2)** requires it to take the steps set out in this section, and does not intend to do so, the *firm* must send the *consumer* a *redress determination* in the form set out in **CONRED 2 Annex 6 R** within 14 days of receiving the opt-in.
  - (2) For any opted-in scheme case, the *firm* must send the *consumer*, within 14 days of receiving the opt-in, a letter in the form set out in **CONRED 2 Annex 7 R**.
- ### First step: case review of each opted-in scheme case
- 2.5.4 **R** The first step is to carry out a review (a case review) of each opted-in scheme case, by completing the template at **CONRED 2 Annex 12 R**, in accordance with the *rules* set out in the instructions at **CONRED 2 Annex 13**.
- 2.5.5 **E** Non-compliance with any of the *evidential provisions* set out in the instructions at **CONRED 2 Annex 13** may be relied upon as tending to show contravention of **CONRED 2.5.4 R**.

2.5.6 **G** In complying with **■ CONRED 2.5.4 R**, *firms* should have regard to the *guidance* set out in the instructions at **■ CONRED 2 Annex 13**.

**Second step: cases of insufficient information**

2.5.7 **R** (1) The second step applies only in respect of an opted-in scheme case where a *firm* has attempted to comply with the first step (**■ CONRED 2.5.4 R**) but does not have sufficient information to determine all of the following matters:

- (a) whether it has failed to comply with any of the suitability requirements specified at paragraph 5.1R of **■ CONRED 2 Annex 13**;
- (b) if so, whether that failure has caused loss or damage to the *consumer*; and
- (c) if so, what the redress should be in respect of its failure.

(2) The second step is to:

- (a) send the *consumer* a letter in the form set out in **■ CONRED 2 Annex 8 R**;
- (b) if no reply is received by the *firm* within four weeks of a letter in (a) being dispatched, the *firm* must send a letter to the *consumer*, within one further week, in the form set out in **■ CONRED 2 Annex 9 R**, and take all reasonable steps to contact the consumer by other means; and
- (c) if a reply is received from a *consumer* but the information it contains is insufficient to determine all the matters in (1), the *firm* should take all reasonable steps to obtain further information from the *consumer*.

[Note: see also **■ CONRED 2.8.7 R**.]

2.5.8 **R** A *firm* which, having carried out the second step, has acquired sufficient information to determine all of the outstanding matters must then complete the first step (**■ CONRED 2.5.4 R**).

2.5.9 **R** Where a *firm* has carried out the second step in relation to an opted-in scheme case (falling within **■ CONRED 2.4.2 R**) but still does not have sufficient information to determine all of the outstanding matters, the opted-in scheme case no longer falls within the subject matter of the consumer redress scheme created by this chapter. The *firm* must send the *consumer* a letter in the form set out in **■ CONRED 2 Annex 10 R** promptly on completion of the second step.

2.5.10 **G** Opted-in scheme cases to which the second step (**■ CONRED 2.5.7 R**) applies are likely to be exceptional, having regard to the record-keeping requirements applicable to *authorised persons* under *FCA rules* (notably *SYSC*).

**Third step: redress determination**

2.5.11 **R** The third step is to send the *consumer* a *redress determination* in the form of the letter set out in **■ CONRED 2 Annex 11 R** in respect of each opted-in scheme case.

**Taking steps by or on behalf of FCA**

- 2.5.12** **R** The *FCA* may (on giving notice to the firm) take any of the steps in ■ CONRED 2.3 to ■ CONRED 2.5, instead of the *firm*, or may appoint one or more competent persons to do so on behalf of the *FCA*, if there is a material failure by the *firm* to take any of the actions required under this chapter, including where the *firm* informs the *FCA* that it is unable or unwilling to take any of those actions because to do so would be in breach of a condition of its professional indemnity insurance. In such a case, the *firm* must:
- (1) not carry out (or, as the case may be, continue) any of the steps to be taken by the *FCA* or competent person, unless so directed by them; and
  - (2) render all reasonable assistance to the *FCA* or competent person (but any assistance, the rendering of which would invalidate the *firm's* professional indemnity insurance, is not reasonable for the purposes of this rule).
- 2.5.13** **G** The *FCA* would expect a *firm* to make reasonable efforts to obtain the consent of its professional indemnity insurer to take the relevant steps, in line with its obligations under *Principle 11* (Relations with regulators).
- 2.5.14** **R** If, where the *FCA* or a competent person takes any steps under ■ CONRED 2.5.12 R, the *FCA* proposes to make any determination of:
- (1) whether a failure by a *firm* has caused loss to a *consumer*; or
  - (2) what the redress should be in respect of the failure;
- the *FCA* must give the *firm* a *warning notice* specifying the proposed determination.
- 2.5.15** **R**
- (1) If the *FCA* decides to make a determination of the matters in ■ CONRED 2.5.14 R, the *FCA* must give the *firm* a *decision notice* specifying the determination.
  - (2) If the *FCA* decides to make such a determination, the *firm* may refer the matter to the *Tribunal*.
- 2.5.16** **R** Part 26 of the *Act* (including the provisions as to final notices) applies in respect of notices given under ■ CONRED 2.5.14 R and ■ CONRED 2.5.15 R.
- 2.5.17** **G** Where, under ■ CONRED 2.5.12 R, the *FCA* (or a competent person) communicates with a *customer* (or *consumer*) instead of the *firm*, it will do so in its own name, making clear (in the case of a competent person) its authority from the *FCA* to do so.
- 2.5.18** **G** Where the *FCA* (or a competent person), instead of the *firm*, carries out the third step in ■ CONRED 2.5.11 R, it will do so no earlier than seven *days* after the issue of a final notice in respect of the *FCA's* decision to make a

determination of the matters in ■ CONRED 2.5.14 R, and will send the *firm* a copy of the *consumer's* response to the *redress determination*.

2.5.19 **G** A fee is payable by the *firm* (or *person* falling within ■ CONRED 2.1.2R (1)) in any case where the *FCA* exercises its powers under ■ CONRED 2.5.12 R: see the table at ■ FEES 3.2.7 R.

2.5.20 **G** The completion of the steps in ■ CONRED 2.3 to ■ CONRED 2.5 by, or on behalf of, the *FCA*, as provided in ■ CONRED 2.5.12 R, does not affect the ability of the *Ombudsman* to consider a *complaint*, in particular where the *firm* has not sent a *redress determination* in accordance with the time limits specified under the scheme.

## 2.6 Consumer redress scheme: paying redress

**2.6.1** **R** A *firm* must pay the redress determined to be payable to a *consumer*, calculated in accordance with the requirement in section 10 of the instructions at ■ CONRED 2 Annex 13 :

- (1) within 28 *days* of receiving a claim from the *consumer* for the redress determined to be payable, following the issue of the *redress determination*; and
- (2) in accordance with the instructions set out by the *consumer* in his response to the *redress determination* in which he makes the claim

but a *firm* need not pay redress where the *consumer* did not send a claim for it within six months of the date of the *redress determination*, unless the *consumer's* failure to comply with that time limit was as a result of exceptional circumstances, except where the *consumer* refers a *complaint* in respect of the *redress determination* to the *Financial Ombudsman Service* within the time limits provided in ■ DISP 2.8.2 R (or ■ DISP 2.8.2R (3) applies).

**2.6.2** **R** (1) Simple interest is payable on the redress determined to be payable from the end of the 28-day period referred to in ■ CONRED 2.6.1R (1) until the date of payment, at a rate of 8% per annum.

- (2) After the expiry of 28 *days* following the *consumer's* claim for the redress, the redress, including interest, may be recovered as a debt due to the *consumer* and, in particular, may:
  - (a) if a county court so orders in England and Wales, be recovered by execution issued from the county court (or otherwise) as if it were payable under an order of that court; or
  - (b) be enforced in Northern Ireland as a money judgment under the Judgments Enforcement (Northern Ireland) Order 1981; or
  - (c) be enforced in Scotland by the sheriff, as if it were a judgment or order of the sheriff and whether or not the sheriff could himself have granted such judgment or order.

[**Note:** This *rule* is imposed by the *FCA* using the powers granted to it under section 404A(1)(m) of the *Act* to make *rules* providing for the enforcement of any redress under a consumer redress scheme.]

**2.6.3** **G** (1) An example of exceptional circumstances in ■ CONRED 2.6.1 R might be where the *consumer* has been or is incapacitated.

- (2) In considering whether circumstances are exceptional, *firms* may wish to have regard to the guidance on exceptional circumstances justifying the extension of the time limits, in the online technical resource titled "the six-month time limit" on the website of the *Financial Ombudsman Service*.

## 2.7 Supervision and delegation of scheme process by firms

- 2.7.1** **R** A *firm* must ensure that the steps required by this chapter are undertaken or supervised by the individual appointed by the *firm* under ■ DISP 1.3.7 R where that *rule* applies. In any other case, those steps must be taken or supervised by a person of appropriate experience and seniority.
- 2.7.2** **G**
- (1) Any *firm* intending to outsource any of the obligations imposed on it under this chapter should have due regard to the *rules* and *guidance* on outsourcing which are applicable to it, notably in SYSC.
  - (2) A *firm* which outsources any of the obligations imposed on it under this chapter in respect of communications with *consumers* should ensure that those communications are clear as to the identity of the *firm*.



## 2.8 Provisions relating to communications with consumers

- 2.8.1** **R** Whenever a *firm* is required by a provision of this chapter to send a letter in a form set out in an Annex, it must do so enclosing any documents referred to, following the instructions in the standard form set out in the relevant Annex, complying with any instructions in that Annex to insert, delete, select or complete text.
- 2.8.2** **R** All letters to *consumers* required under this chapter must be printed on the letterhead of the *firm* and dispatched by recorded delivery mail.
- 2.8.3** **R**
- (1) Where a *firm* becomes aware that the contact details it holds for a *customer* (or *consumer*) are out of date, it must take all reasonable steps to obtain up-to-date contact details and, where appropriate, resend any letter and repeat the steps to contact the *customer* (or *consumer*) required by this chapter.
  - (2) If, having complied with (1), a *firm* is unable to contact a *customer* (or *consumer*), it need not take any further action pursuant to this chapter in relation to that *customer* (or *consumer*) unless (3) applies.
  - (3) If, in reliance on (2), the *firm* has ceased taking action but subsequently becomes aware of up-to-date contact details for that *customer* (or *consumer*), the *firm* must, where appropriate, resend any letter and repeat the steps to contact the *customer* (or *consumer*) required by this chapter. Each applicable deadline for those actions by the *firm* is extended according to the length of the delay incurred by the application of (2).
- 2.8.4** **G** The reasonable steps in **■ CONRED 2.1.3R (1)** might include checking public sources of information, but without incurring excessive cost.
- 2.8.5** **G** The reasonable steps in **■ CONRED 2.5.7R (2)(b)** might include attempting to contact the *consumer* by telephone (at a reasonable hour when the *consumer* is likely to be available to receive the call) or by email.
- 2.8.6** **R** A *firm* must not make any communication to a *consumer* which seeks to influence, for the benefit of the *firm*, the outcome of the processes undertaken pursuant to this chapter, either by seeking to influence the content of information provided by the *consumer* in response to the *firm's* requests made under **■ CONRED 2.5.7 R** or otherwise.

2.8.7

**R**

A *firm* must tailor the questionnaire at ■ CONRED 2 Annex 8 R so that it does not request more information than is sufficient for it to determine all of the outstanding matters.

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## 2.9 Consumer redress scheme: information requirements

### Requests for information by the FCA

2.9.1

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In relation to any matter concerning or related to the consumer redress scheme created by this chapter, section 165 (Regulator's power to require information: authorised persons etc) of the Act and any provision of Part 11 (Information Gathering and Investigations) of the Act which relates to that section, apply to any *firm* (or person in ■ CONRED 2.1.2 R) which is not an *authorised person* as if it were an *authorised person*.

### Reporting requirement: by 9 December 2013

2.9.2

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A *firm* must, by 9 December 2013, a *firm* must report to the FCA, by email to archcruereview@fca.org.uk or (if the email is encrypted) archcruereviewpgp@fca.org.uk , the following information:

- (1) the total number of opted-in scheme cases (cases falling within ■ CONRED 2.5.1 R);
- (2) the total number of completed templates;
- (3) the total number of incomplete templates, with an explanation as to why the templates have not been completed;
- (4) the total number of redress cases;
- (5) the total number of *redress determinations* sent to *consumers*;
- (6) the total number of *consumers* that have been paid redress to date;
- (7) the total amount of redress paid to date; and
- (8) the total amount of redress unpaid to date.

[Note: for details of how to obtain an encryption key see guidance above at ■ CONRED 2.3.2 G]

## 2.10 Record-keeping requirements

### 2.10.1

**R**

- (1) A *firm* must keep the following records:
  - (a) the certificate of posting for each letter sent in accordance with this chapter;
  - (b) a copy of each letter sent in accordance with this chapter;
  - (c) a record of any attempts to contact the *consumer*, or obtain further information, in accordance with ■ CONRED 2.5.7R (2)(b) or ■ (c);
  - (d) the completed template (■ CONRED 2 Annex 12 R) for each opted-in scheme case; and
  - (e) all information on the *consumer* file and any information received from a *consumer*.
- (2) A *firm* must keep the records required by (1) for a minimum of five years from the date of their creation or (for the records in (1)(e)) the date when the information is located on the *consumer* file or obtained.

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## Redress determination for customers outside subject matter of Arch cru consumer redress scheme

*Redress determination for customers outside subject matter of Arch cru consumer redress scheme -  
CONRED 2 Annex 1 R*



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## Letter to consumers confirming existence of review and inviting request to opt-in

*Letter to consumers confirming existence of review and inviting request to opt-in - CONRED 2 Annex 2*  
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## First reminder letter to consumers inviting request for review

*First reminder letter to consumers inviting request for review - CONRED 2 Annex 3 R*



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## Second reminder letter to consumers inviting request for review

*Second reminder letter to consumers inviting request for review - CONRED 2 Annex 4 R*



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## Final letter to consumers who have not sent a request for review

*Final letter to consumers who have not sent a request for review - CONRED 2 Annex 5 R*



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## Redress determination where firm considers opt-in ineffective

*Redress determination where firm considers opt-in ineffective - CONRED 2 Annex 6 R*





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## Letter to consumers confirming their case will be reviewed

*Letter to consumers confirming their case will be reviewed - CONRED 2 Annex 7 R*



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## Initial letter requesting information/enclosing questionnaire

*Initial letter requesting information/enclosing questionnaire - CONRED 2 Annex 8 R*



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## Reminder letter

*Reminder letter - CONRED 2 Annex 9 R*



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## Redress determination where consumer has not provided requested information

*Redress determination where consumer has not provided requested information - CONRED 2 Annex 10 R*





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## Redress determination letter for scheme cases

*Redress determination letter for scheme cases - CONRED 2 Annex 11 R*



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## Arch cru product advice suitability assessment template

*Arch cru product advice suitability assessment template - CONRED 2 Annex 12 R*



## CF Arch cru funds template instructions

### 1 Limitations on use of template and instructions

- 1.1 G The Arch cru advice suitability assessment template reproduced at CONRED 2 Annex 12 R (referred to in these instructions as the "template") and the instructions in this Annex are only to be used for the purpose of complying with the requirements under CONRED 2 to assess sales of the Arch cru funds identified at CONRED 2.1.1R (2). They should not be used for any other purpose.

### 2 Using the template

- 2.1 G The template contains factors to take into account to determine whether there has been a failure to comply with the suitability requirements (specified at 5.1R, below) in an opted-in scheme case.
- 2.2 R The template is divided into sections which must be completed in full, except where indicated in these instructions.
- 2.3 R Before completing the template you must familiarise yourself with the features and risks of the Arch cru funds that a reasonably competent *firm* should have identified, as specified in CONRED 2 Annex 15 R.
- 2.4 R Answer the questions in the template and complete your assessment by reference to the available evidence (information on the *consumer* file and any information received from a *consumer*), and the features and risks of the Arch cru funds that a reasonably competent *firm* should have identified, as specified in CONRED 2 Annex 15 R.

### 3 Admission of failure to comply with suitability requirements

- 3.1 R Where you admit that the *firm* has failed to comply with a suitability requirement (specified at 5.1R, below) in an opted-in scheme case complete the following sections of the template:
- (1) *firm* and case details;
  - (2) *consumer* details;
  - (3) transaction input;
  - (4) admission of failure in an opted-in scheme case;
  - (5) causation; and
  - (6) redress.

### 4 Completing the template

- 4.1 R Fill in the following sections of the template as follows:
- (1) **Firm and case details:** enter the *firm*-specific information as it appears on the *Financial Services Register*.
  - (2) **Consumer details:** enter the *consumer* details and the date of the advice to the *consumer*. Advice was given on a joint basis if it was given to two people where the *personal recommendation* relates to a "joint" portfolio. This includes cases where the advice is directed at a couple but where the investment is in one spouse's name for tax purposes.
  - (3) **Transaction input:** take the following steps:
    - (a) Select the date of investment in the "transaction date" box. If you cannot identify the date of investment from the *consumer* file, insert the date of advice as the approximate date of the investment.

- (b) Select the Arch cru fund(s) invested in.
- (c) Select the transaction type from the drop-down menu. The transaction types to select from are:
  - **Investment:** an investment into an Arch cru fund. Enter the amount invested, the share class, and the wrapper (if applicable).
  - **Partial withdrawal:** the sale of part of the *consumer's* share capital in the *consumer's* investment, excluding interim hardship withdrawals.
  - **Final withdrawal:** the sale of all of the *consumer's* share capital in the *consumer's* investment, excluding final hardship withdrawals.
  - **Income distribution:** any income distribution received by the *consumer* in respect of their shares in the *consumer's* investment prior to the date of suspension of the Arch cru funds.
  - **Capital distribution:** any capital distribution received by the *consumer* in respect of their shares in the *consumer's* investment after the date of the suspension.
  - **Capita offer:** the amount offered to the *consumer* under the *CF Arch cru payment scheme*.
  - **Interim hardship withdrawal:** interim distributions received by the *consumer* from the Capita Hardship Scheme (ie, the hardship scheme for investors in Arch cru funds as set out by Capita Financial Managers Ltd in a letter to investors of 7 December 2009) after the date of the suspension.
  - **Final hardship withdrawal:** the amount received by the *consumer* for any full surrender of the investment from the Capita Hardship Scheme (as described above) after the date of the suspension.
- (d) Input the amount corresponding to the transaction type.
- (4) **Admission of failure to comply with a suitability requirement in the opted-in scheme case:** Select "yes" or "no" and proceed with the steps outlined at 3.1R, above.
- (5) **Consumer investment objectives:** take the following steps:
  - (a) Identify and select whether any of the objectives listed on the template is recorded (yes/no) and override the "yes" with "priority" if the *consumer* says, or the firm recorded that, this objective was a priority.
  - (b) If a *consumer* was investing a lump sum to obtain an income, identify and record what level of annual income the *consumer* wanted from the recommended Arch cru fund.
  - (c) The objective 'Realignment of portfolio' must be used when the *consumer's* circumstances or overall investment objective has changed.
  - (d) If the *consumer* had other investment objectives not identified in the list above, record these objectives in the box provided and identify whether they were a priority.
  - (e) Complete the "Comments on consumer investment objectives" box where you have further comments on the *consumer's* investment objectives relevant to your assessment.
- (6) **Consumer attitude to risk ("ATR"):** take the following steps:
  - (a) In the "Consumer's attitude to risk" box record the *firm's* short description of the *consumer's* ATR, using the headline description used on their risk scale (eg, "balanced", "medium", "5/10").

- (b) In the "Firm's description of the consumer's ATR" box record the *firm's* description of the *consumer's* ATR, using the *firm's* own wording (eg, "balanced means the *consumer* will invest in x, y types of assets and wants to take x risk with their capital").
  - (c) In the "Comments on the firm's assessment of the consumer's ATR" box record any comments you have on the *firm's* assessment of the *consumer's* attitude to risk and whether the firm's assessment was, in your view, a reasonable representation of the *consumer's* ATR. You should also include any information about the *consumer's* ATR in relation to this particular investment.
  - (d) This section does not record information on the *consumer's* capacity for loss (which is different to a *consumer's* ATR). This information must be noted in the "Comments on the consumer's capacity for loss" box in the "Consumer's financial situation" section of the template.
  - (e) Where there is evidence that the *consumer's* ATR was wrongly assessed by the *firm*, complete the suitability section based on your assessment of the *consumer's* ATR.
- (7) **Consumer financial situation:** take the following steps:
- (a) Record information on the *consumer's* savings and investments portfolio before and after the *consumer's* investment in the Arch cru funds in the boxes provided.
  - (b) The template provides the following categories:
    - Cash (including cash ISAs)
    - Investments
    - Arch cru funds (this is a drop-down menu).
  - (c) When completing the table of the *consumer's* investments, take into account the following:
    - Where advice is being provided on a "joint" basis (see 4.1R(2), above), record the combined total of, for example, a married couple's investments. Where advice is on a 'single' basis but the *consumer* is married or in a relationship include the value of the proportion of investments owned by the *consumer* (these will usually be in the *consumer's* name). Where the *consumer's* share of investments is unclear from the file you can assume the proportion owned by the *consumer* is 50%.
    - Only include pension policy values where the fund is held in a pension wrapper (eg a self-invested personal pension (*SIPP*) or a small self-administered scheme (*SASS*)).
    - Where the source of funds is existing investments, use the surrender value of the investments.
  - (d) In the "Comments on portfolio before and after sale" box record your observations about the level of diversification within the portfolio and how the advice to invest in the selected Arch cru fund has met the *consumer's* investment objectives for their portfolio.
 

Your comments must include whether the evidence supports an assessment that the risk profile of the *consumer's* overall portfolio was suitable given the *consumer's* personal and financial circumstances and objectives before and after the advice to invest in an Arch cru fund. This information will be relevant later in the template.
  - (e) In the "Comments on consumer's capacity for loss" box, record the *firm's* comments on the *consumer's* capacity for loss (also referred to as the level of risk the *consumer* is able to take). This is different to the level of risk that the *consumer* was willing or would have pre-

ferred to take. In doing so, consider whether, in the light of the available evidence:

- the *consumer* was able to take any risk with the *consumer's* capital or income;
- there would have been an impact on the *consumer* of a total or partial loss of capital;
- the *consumer* could, considering his personal and financial circumstances, afford to take this level of risk.

(8) **Suitability requirements:** take the steps set out at 5.1 to 5.4, below.

(9) **Causation:** take the steps set out at 9.1 to 9.5, below.

(10) **Redress:** take the steps set out at 10.1 to 10.15, below.

**5 Suitability requirements**

5.1 R The following requirements are specified:

- (1) for a *personal recommendation* made on or before 31 October 2007, COB 5.3.5 R (1);
- (2) for a *personal recommendation* made on or after 1 November 2007, COBS 9.2.1 R (1);
- (3) the common law duty in contract or tort to exercise reasonable skill and care in advising the *consumer* on investments.

5.2 G The contract between the *firm* and the *consumer* may have included a specific term providing that the *firm* would exercise reasonable skill and care in advising the *consumer* on investments. If it did not do so, such a duty is likely to have been implied into the contract.

5.3 G The standard of care under the *FCA rules* and the common law is that of a reasonably competent *firm* carrying on a similar business to that of the *firm* assessed.

5.4 G COB 5.2 and COBS 9.2.1 R (2), COBS 9.2.2 R and COBS 9.2.3 R indicate particular matters of which you should take account when assessing whether the *firm* failed to comply with the suitability requirements at 5.1R, above. In summary, these are the *consumer's*:

- (1) investment objectives;
- (2) financial situation; and
- (3) experience and knowledge of investments similar to the recommended Arch cru fund.

**6 Assessing opted-in scheme cases**

General

6.1 G The "Suitability section" in the template and associated additional provisions in these instructions contain examples which tend to show failure to comply or compliance with the suitability requirements ("example").

6.2 G The suitability requirements arise from *FCA rules* and the common law. For the requirements specified, the standards required of the *firm* are broadly the same whether their origin is a *rule* or the common law.

6.3 R You must in each opted-in scheme case falling within CONRED 2.4.2 R:

- (1) fairly consider and give appropriate weight to all information on the *consumer* file and any information received from a *consumer* of the *firm's* compliance or non-compliance with applicable suitability requirements at 5.1R, above; and
- (2) decide, with reference to the examples in the suitability requirements section of the template, whether it is more likely than not that the *firm* failed to comply with the suitability requirements specified at 5.1R, above.

6.4 R In considering the information on the *consumer* file and any information received from a *consumer*, you must:



- (1) not assume that a *firm* complied with a suitability requirement (specified at 5.1R, above) solely on the basis that:
  - (a) the *consumer* signed documentation that records his understanding or agreement to matters set out in that documentation;
  - (b) the *personal recommendation* was given to a *consumer* who had already invested in an Arch cru fund or a predecessor of that fund;
- (2) give more weight to evidence of the particular circumstances of a *personal recommendation* than to general evidence of the selling practices of the *firm* or its advisers at the relevant time;
- (3) determine that an example in the suitability requirements section of the template is present on the "balance of probabilities" when it is more likely than not to have occurred.

Reliance on others

- 6.5 R You must take into account that:
- (1) the duty of a *firm* to advise on the suitability of investments cannot be delegated to, or discharged by reliance on, another;
  - (2) where the *firm* made a *personal recommendation* in reliance on the advice or opinions of *persons* other than the *firm*, a *firm* must not be regarded as complying with the suitability requirements at 5.1R, above, because of that reliance; and
  - (3) the suitability requirements at 5.1R, above, require a *firm* in all cases to form its own view of the suitability of the recommended Arch cru fund for the particular *consumer*, based on the information that the *firm* had, or ought reasonably to have obtained, regarding that Arch cru fund and its suitability for the *consumer's* circumstances.
- 6.6 R If, in relation to any rating, before coming to a view that the *firm* came to a reasonable, albeit erroneous, conclusion on the risks of the recommended Arch cru fund and sold the Arch cru fund on this basis, you must take into account:
- (1) that the *FCA's* guidance on the Responsibilities of Providers and Distributors for the Fair Treatment of Consumers (*RPPD*) says that a *firm* distributing products:
    - (a) should consider, when passing provider materials to *consumers*, whether it understands the information provided;
    - (b) should ask the provider to supply additional information or training where that seems necessary to understand the product or service adequately; and
    - (c) should not distribute the product or service if it does not understand it sufficiently, especially if it intends to provide advice;
  - (2) any due diligence: a *firm* providing a *personal recommendation* should have formed its own view on the risks of investing in an Arch cru fund, based on the information that it had or ought to have gathered about the fund;
  - (3) that the reliance on other *rules* (COB 2.3.3 R and COBS 2.4.6 R) enable a *firm* to place reasonable reliance for some purposes on factual (ie, not opinion-based) information provided by an unconnected *authorised person*; but that these *rules* do not absolve a *firm* from forming its own view on the risks of investing in an Arch cru fund;
  - (4) the features and risks of the recommended Arch cru fund set out in CONRED 2 Annex 15 R; and
  - (5) that COBS 2.4.8 G states that "it will generally be reasonable... for a *firm* to rely on information provided to it in writing by an unconnected *authorised person* ... unless it is aware or ought reasonably to be aware of any fact that would give reasonable grounds to question the accuracy of that information". In the absence of those grounds, it will generally have been reasonable for a *firm* to have relied on factual statements provided by

Arch or Cru on the Arch cru funds, such as information about the funds' underlying assets.

**7 Assessing compliance with the suitability requirements**

- 7.1 R When assessing whether a *firm* complied with the suitability requirements specified at 5.1R, above, you must take into account the following:
- (1) the *consumer's* investment objectives, including his willingness to bear the risks associated with the recommended Arch cru fund;
  - (2) the *consumer's* financial situation, including his financial ability to bear the risks associated with the recommended Arch cru fund consistent with his investment objectives;
  - (3) the *consumer's* ability, in the light of the following, to understand the risks associated with the recommended Arch cru fund:
    - (a) the experience and knowledge of the *consumer* relevant to an investment in the recommended Arch cru fund; and
    - (b) any correspondence between the *firm* and the *consumer* (which may include references to promotional materials, such as fund factsheets or offer documents or prospectuses) regarding the recommended Arch cru fund.
- 7.2 R When assessing the reasonableness of a *firm's* conduct in relation to a *personal recommendation*, you must:
- (1) assess the *firm's* conduct against what was reasonable at the time when the *firm* made the *personal recommendation*; and
  - (2) conclude that the conduct of the *firm* assessed was reasonable only where that *firm* displayed the degree of skill, care and diligence that would at that time have been exercised in the ordinary and proper course of a similar business to that of the *firm*.

Consumer instructions

- 7.3 R In all cases, you must take into account any specific instructions the *consumer* gave the *firm* about the sale.
- 7.4 G Specific instructions include, for example, where the *consumer* asked the *firm* to advise only on the sum to be invested and not on the *consumer's* pension arrangements.
- 7.5 G As the Arch cru funds are high-risk investments, the *firm* should have asked for further information about the *consumer's* wider portfolio, and have taken this into account when making its *personal recommendation* to the *consumer* to invest in an Arch cru fund.
- 7.6 G If there is clear evidence on file that the *consumer* has given specific instructions that the *firm* is not to review the *consumer's* entire portfolio, but to advise on this investment only, the suitability assessment could involve a narrower review, focusing on the *consumer's* objectives in relation to the specific amount to be invested. However, any *personal recommendation* should still have taken into account how the specific investment would fit within the *consumer's* overall savings and investments portfolio.

**8 Suitability section**

Filling in the suitability requirements section

- 8.1 G The suitability requirements section is used to record your assessment of whether or not the *firm* complied with the suitability requirements specified at 5.1R, above.
- 8.2 R To complete the suitability requirements section you must take the following steps for an opted-in case falling within CONRED 2.5.1 R (an "opted-in scheme case"):
- (1) review the information on the *consumer* file, any information received from a *consumer* and the information recorded in the data section of the template ("the available evidence");

- (2) determine whether the available evidence shows overall that any or all of examples (1) to (7) is present or not;
  - (3) indicate whether any or all of examples (1) to (7) is present, or not, by selecting "yes" or "no";
  - (4) conclude, taking into account the available evidence, whether the *firm* complied with the suitability requirements specified at 5.1R, above; and
  - (5) insert your commentary on whether or not the *firm* complied with the suitability requirements specified at 5.1R, above, with reference to the example(s) that support your conclusion. Your comments can refer to relevant sections of the fund summary in CONRED 2 Annex 15 R.
- 8.3 G If an example is present, this will tend to show the *firm's* compliance or non-compliance with the suitability requirements. The presence of the example is not definitive as to whether a *firm* has complied with the suitability requirements. There may be other factors which mean that the *firm* has, despite the presence of the example, complied, or not complied, with the suitability requirements at 5.1R, above.
- 8.4 G The template sale rating will automatically default to "Compliant" or "Non-compliant" depending on your answer to the example questions in the template. The "Non-compliant" rating indicates that the *personal recommendation* does not comply with the suitability requirements at 5.1R, above.
- 8.5 G This table contains *rules, evidential provisions, and guidance* for determining whether the available evidence shows overall that an example is present, or not:
- (1) **The consumer was willing to take a high degree of risk with the sum invested**
- R Compare:
- (1) the information on the *consumer* file, and any information received from the *consumer* and, in particular, the information recorded in the template on the *firm's* assessment of the *consumer's* attitude to risk (ATR), focusing on the degree of risk the *consumer* was willing to take with this investment (not, for the purposes of this question, the degree of risk the *consumer* was able to take); with
  - (2) the high degree of risk a *consumer* must have been willing to take for a *personal recommendation* to invest in an Arch cru fund to be suitable.
- E Answer "no" to this question where:
- (1) the *consumer* was not willing to take a high degree of risk with the sum invested (by reference to the risk scale used by the *firm*); or
  - (2) the *consumer* was not willing to put his capital at risk for the potential of a higher return and had expressed a preference for lower-risk investments.
- G This question relates to the level of risk a client is willing to take with the sum invested.
- (2) **The risk profile of the consumer's overall savings and investment portfolio after the sale was suitable for the level of risk he was willing to take to meet his investment objectives**
- R Take the following steps:
- (1) refer to the information recorded on the *consumer's* stated attitude to risk in the template;
  - (2) with reference to the *firm's* risk scale, identify the risk level in the *consumer's* portfolio after the sale; and
  - (3) compare the level of risk in the *consumer's* overall portfolio after the sale with the level of risk the *consumer* was willing to take to meet his investment objectives.
- E Answer "no" where the risk profile of the *consumer's* portfolio was higher than the level of risk he was willing to take to meet his investment objectives.
- G This question relates to how the investment fits into the client's portfolio of investments.

**(3) The consumer's portfolio was sufficiently diversified after the sale to meet his investment objectives**

R Take the following steps:

- (1) refer to the information on the *consumer* file, any information received from a *consumer* and the information recorded on the *consumer's* investment objectives section of the template;
- (2) identify the concentration of Arch cru funds in the *consumer's* portfolio after the sale; and
- (3) taking into account in particular:
  - (a) the concentration of Arch cru funds;
  - (b) the liquidity in the *consumer's* portfolio;
  - (c) the exposure to different asset classes; and
  - (d) the level of stability of returns or security of invested capital in the portfolio;

determine whether the *consumer's* portfolio was sufficiently diversified to meet his investment objectives.

- E
- (1) Answer "no" where the *consumer* has a large portfolio of savings and investments but his preferences regarding risk-taking indicate that he would prefer to diversify and invest in a wide range of assets and he has invested a high concentration of his assets in Arch cru funds and the risk of this investment is not offset by the potential return offered by the Arch cru funds.
  - (2) Answer "yes" where the *consumer* wanted a significant portion of his capital to be invested in higher-risk or alternative investments and has a low proportion of Arch cru funds. This may be recorded in specific instructions the *consumer* gave the *firm*.

**(4) The consumer was reliant on income from this investment**

- E
- (1) Answer "yes" where a *consumer* needed a minimum level of income from this fund (for example, to pay household bills and expenses).
  - (2) Answer "no" where a *consumer* did not need a specific level of income from the fund, for example, because it was not essential to maintain his standard of living.

- G
- (1) Whether a *consumer* had a need for income from this investment may be reflected in the information on the *consumer* file and any information received from a *consumer* about the *consumer's* household income and whether the income from this investment was necessary for household expenses and personal outlays or whether it was "disposable income" (which is money left over after bills and household expenses are paid).
  - (2) The Arch cru funds that offered income shares are the Investment Portfolio, Specialist Portfolio and Income Fund. These funds aimed to pay income on a half-yearly basis but did not provide a set level of income.

**(5) The consumer had the capacity to bear the risk of investing [x%] of his savings and investments in the selected Arch cru fund**

R (1) Take the following steps:

- (a) refer to the information on the *consumer* file, any information received from a *consumer* and the information recorded on the *consumer's* financial situation in the data section of the template;
- (b) identify the concentration of Arch cru funds in the *consumer* portfolio after the sale; and
- (c) taking into account in particular:
  - (i) the concentration of Arch cru funds;
  - (ii) the source and extent of the *consumer's* assets;

- (iii) the liquidity in the *consumer's* portfolio;
- (iv) the exposure to different asset classes;
- (v) the level of stability of returns or security of invested capital in the portfolio; and
- (vi) the impact the loss of the capital invested would have on his standard of living overall;

determine whether the concentration of Arch cru funds in the *consumer's* portfolio was suitable for his financial situation.

- E (1) Answer "no" where any loss of the investment would have had a materially detrimental effect on the *consumer's* standard of living.
- (2) Answer "yes" where the investment was speculative: the consumer had no need for the capital and would not be using it to maintain his standard of living.

**(6) The firm took reasonable steps to ensure the consumer had the necessary experience and knowledge to invest in the selected Arch cru fund**

R Take the following steps:

- (1) refer to the information on the *consumer* file, any information received from a *consumer* and the information recorded on the template;
- (2) identify the *consumer's* level of investment experience and knowledge of investments both:
  - (a) in relation to investments similar to Arch cru funds; and
  - (b) generally;
- (3) identify the steps that the *firm* took to establish that the *consumer* could appreciate the nature of the risks they were taking with his investment in the Arch cru fund;
- (4) taking into account, in particular:
  - (a) information about the *consumer's* existing portfolio and the nature, volume, and frequency of the *consumer's* transactions in investments;
  - (b) how long the *consumer* had been an investor;
  - (c) the *consumer's* experience with, and knowledge of, high-risk investments similar to Arch cru funds;
  - (d) the *consumer's* profession (if any);
  - (e) insofar as it was clear, fair and not misleading, information the *firm* gave the *consumer* over and above any Capita Financial Managers Limited, Arch Financial Products LLP or Cru Investment Managers Limited produced documentation (if that was provided);
  - (f) how the *firm* communicated the risks of investing and the underlying assets in the selected Arch cru fund listed in CONRED 2 Annex 15 R; and
  - (g) the overall impression that the *consumer* would reasonably have had of those features and risks, particularly in the light of:
    - (i) the entirety of the communications referred to in (1);
    - (ii) the extent to which such communications were consistent in their presentation of those features and risks; and
    - (iii) the *consumer's* relevant experience and knowledge;

conclude whether the *firm* had a reasonable basis for believing that the *consumer* had the necessary experience and knowledge to understand the risks involved in investing in Arch cru funds.

E Answer "no" where:

- (1) the *firm* did not communicate in substance the risks and features of the selected Arch cru fund listed in CONRED 2 Annex 15 R; and
- (2) one or more of the following is present:
  - (a) prior to the *personal recommendation*, the *consumer* had experience and knowledge of investing in capital protected products only;
  - (b) prior to the *personal recommendation*, the *consumer* had no experience and knowledge of investments in bonds or shares traded on public markets;
  - (c) prior to the *personal recommendation*, the *consumer* had no experience and knowledge of investing in high-risk investments.
- G A *firm* may rely on the simplified prospectus to disclose the risks in CONRED 2 Annex 15 R, but disclosure will not be "clear" if, in particular:
  - (1) the information was contradicted by the *firm* in correspondence between the firm and the consumer (which may include references to promotional materials, such as monthly reports, fund factsheets or offer documents or prospectuses); or
  - (2) given the *consumer's* experience and knowledge, it is unlikely that the *consumer* would have understood the risks as disclosed in the prospectus without further explanation from the *firm*.
- (7) **The recommendation is not suitable for the consumer's investment objectives or financial situation for some other reason**
  - R Take the following steps:
    - (1) refer to the information on the *consumer* file, any information received from a *consumer* and the information recorded on the *consumer's* financial situation in the template;
    - (2) refer to the risks and features of the Arch cru funds in CONRED 2 Annex 15 R; and
    - (3) consider whether there is any reason, other than the reasons at questions (1) to (6) why the *personal recommendation* to invest in an Arch cru fund was unsuitable for the *consumer's* investment objectives or financial situation.
  - E Answer "yes" where:
    - (1) the *consumer's* financial situation was likely to change in the near future so that he would not be able to bear the risks of this investment; or
    - (2) the *consumer* had existing debts which it would have been in his best interests to repay before making this investment; or
    - (3) following the *personal recommendation*, the *consumer* did not have an adequate emergency fund and cash reserve; or
    - (4) the *consumer* would need the money invested within five years of investment in the fund; or
    - (5) any of the risks or features of the Arch cru fund set out in CONRED 2 Annex 15 R were unsuitable for the *consumer's* financial situation; or
    - (6) an existing product in the *consumer's* portfolio could have been changed to meet the *consumer's* investment objective with less cost or less risk.
  - G (1) The features and risks of the Arch cru fund may have been unsuitable for the *consumer's* investment objectives if any of the following applies:
    - (a) the *consumer* did not want to invest through an offshore vehicle or in non-UK assets;
    - (b) the *consumer* did not want an investment that did not have a transparent secondary market for its underlying assets;
    - (c) the *consumer* did not want to invest through *collective investment schemes*;



- (d) the *consumer* was not prepared to put capital at risk in stock markets;
- (e) the *consumer* did not want to be exposed to risks associated with *commodities or derivatives*;
- (f) the *consumer* did not want an investment that invested in *illiquid assets*;
- (g) the *consumer* did not want an investment that was exposed to non-traditional asset classes;
- (h) the *consumer* did not want an investment where the investment manager employed investment techniques such as gearing, that would not normally have been used in more commonly encountered *UCITS*.

- (2) In relation to whether the *consumer's* financial situation was likely to change in the near future so that the *consumer* would not be able to bear the risks of this investment, consider whether the *consumer* was expecting a change in his personal circumstances, such as the birth of a child, redundancy or retirement and the impact this was likely to have on his financial situation.
- (3) In relation to whether the *consumer* had existing debts which it would have been in his best interests to repay before making this investment, consider the particular circumstances of the debt, including:
  - (a) the size of the debt (excluding mortgage debt);
  - (b) whether the debt had an early repayment penalty or fixed repayment schedule;
  - (c) the interest rate on the debt in relation to what they could reasonably expect in relation to the performance of the investment.
- (4) An adequate emergency fund should be at least three times monthly outgoings but, depending on the *consumer's* circumstances, this could be more. The *consumer* should also have held sufficient 'cash reserves' to meet known or reasonably anticipated future expenses, such as the payment of care fees, or spending on home improvements, or a new car or dependents.

Outcome: overall assessment on suitability requirements

- 8.6 R Take the following steps to determine whether the *firm* complied with the suitability requirements:
  - (1) review the information on the *consumer* file, any information received from a *consumer* and the features and risks of the Arch cru fund in [CONRED 2 Annex 15 R](#);
  - (2) determine whether the *firm* took reasonable steps to ensure that the *personal recommendation* was suitable, and select the appropriate outcome in the Firm sale rating box "Compliant" or "Non-Compliant"; and
  - (3) in all cases, insert your commentary on whether or not the *firm* complied with the suitability requirements specified at 5.1R, above, with reference to the example(s) that support your conclusion. Your comments can refer to relevant sections of the fund summary in [CONRED 2 Annex 15 R](#).
- 8.7 E For the purposes of 8.2R(2) above, in any case where you have answered:
  - (1) "no" to any of the questions in sub-paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (5) or (6) of paragraph 8.5; and/or
  - (2) "yes" to either of the questions in sub-paragraphs (4) and (7) of paragraph 8.5;

this will tend to indicate that the *personal recommendation* was "Non-Compliant".

- 8.8 G The presence of an example in the suitability section of the template is not determinative as to whether a *firm* has complied with the suitability requirements. There may be other factors which mean that the *firm* has, despite the presence of the example, complied, or not complied, with the suitability requirements.
- 8.9 G Where the *personal recommendation* is to invest in more than one Arch cru fund and one investment is suitable but the other is not suitable, the *firm* should conclude overall that the *personal recommendation* does not comply with the suitability requirements. The template will take into account the suitable part of the investment in the redress section.
- 9 Causation section**
- 9.1 G The causation section is used to record your assessment of whether or not the *consumer's* loss was caused by the *firm's* failure to comply with the suitability requirements specified at 5.1R, above. The causation section proceeds on an assumption that the *consumer* suffered a loss. Whether or not there was actually a loss is dealt with in the redress section.
- 9.2 G Complete the causation section where you have concluded that the *firm* has failed to comply with the suitability requirements specified at 5.1R, above.
- 9.3 R To fill in the causation section you must:
- (1) review the information on the *consumer* file, any information received from a *consumer* and the information recorded in the template ("available evidence");
  - (2) determine whether the *firm's* failure to comply with the suitability requirements caused the *consumer's* loss; and
  - (3) explain your conclusion on causation with reference to the available evidence.
- 9.4 R In assessing the available evidence, you must have regard to:
- (1) the impact of the *firm* failure(s) on the *consumer's* decision to invest in the Arch cru fund(s) in all the circumstances of the *consumer's* case;
  - (2) the position at law that, irrespective of the actions of third parties, the *firm* is responsible for all losses that flow from its failure to comply with the suitability requirements; and
  - (3) the position at law that no actions of Capita Financial Managers Limited; Arch Financial Products LLP; cru Investment Management Limited; HSBC Bank plc and BNY Mellon Trust and Depository (UK) Limited break the chain of causation, so that the *firm* is still responsible for all losses that flow from its failure to comply with the suitability requirements.
- 9.5 E You should conclude "yes" (that the *firm's* failure caused the *consumer's* loss) unless you are satisfied on the basis of the available evidence that the *consumer* did not rely on the *personal recommendation* in making the decision to invest.
- 10 Redress Section**
- 10.1 R Complete the redress section in each opted-in scheme case where you have determined that the *consumer's* loss was caused by the *firm's* failure to comply with any of the suitability requirements at 5.1R, above.
- 10.2 G The redress section is used to identify and record an investment benchmark to compare the position the *consumer* is in with the position they would have been in if the *firm* had complied with the suitability requirements.
- 10.3 R For a redress case where a *personal recommendation* resulted in more than one investment in one or more Arch cru funds, complete the redress section for each of the *consumer's* investments in Arch cru funds.
- 10.4 R Take the following steps in each redress case:
- (1) select the Arch cru fund that the consumer invested in;



- (2) having regard to what investment the *consumer* would have invested if the *firm* had complied with the suitability requirements at 5.1R above, and other requirements applicable to it at the time (referred to in this chapter as a "suitable investment"), either:
    - (a) select investment benchmark "1", "2", or "3"; or
    - (b) select investment benchmark "4" (suitable investment); or
    - (c) select investment benchmark "5" (other);
  - (3) where investment benchmark 4 or 5 is selected:
    - (a) determine what would have been a suitable investment in accordance with the instructions at (for investment benchmark 4) 10.6R, below, and (for investment benchmark 5) 10.7R and 10.8R, below; and
    - (b) record the suitable investment identified and the reasons for selecting it in the 'SI selection justification' box (for investment benchmark 4, this will be the selected Arch cru fund); and
  - (4) submit a redress calculation request to the *FCA* following the instructions at 10.13R, below.
- 10.5 E For the purposes of paragraph 10.4R(2), above:
- (1) have regard to the investment benchmarks in CONRED 2 Annex 14 R;
  - (2) consider which investment benchmark best reflects the risks and features of a suitable investment;
  - (3) subject to 10.7R, above, select that investment benchmark; and
  - (4) record your reasons for the selection of that investment benchmark in the Comments box.
- 10.6 R You may select investment 4 (suitable investment) only if you are satisfied on the basis of the information on the *consumer* file, and information received from the *consumer*, that the *consumer* would have made an investment in the Arch cru fund if the *firm* had complied with the suitability requirements.
- 10.7 R You may select investment benchmark 5 (other) only where you are able to identify a specific investment:
- (1) which would have been a suitable investment; and
  - (2) in which a *consumer* could have made an investment at all times from the date on which the *consumer's* investment was made to the date of calculation.
- 10.8 G For the purposes of 10.7R, above, a *firm* might be able to identify a specific investment in circumstances where:
- (1) at the time when the *firm* made the *personal recommendation* to the *consumer* to invest in Arch cru funds, the *firm* also recommended other specific investments which would have been suitable for the *consumer*; or
  - (2) the *firm* recommended that a *consumer* disinvest from a specific investment, which was suitable for the *Consumer*, in order to invest in Arch cru funds.
- 10.9 R In cases where you have selected investment benchmark 5 (other) you must, following the instructions at 10.12R, below, and determine and record the value which sums initially invested by the *consumer* in the *consumer's* investment would have had at the date of calculation if such sums had been invested in investment benchmark 5.
- 10.10 R In a redress case where the *consumer* retained any shares in the *consumer's* investment at the date of suspension, redress is equal to the sum of A - B - C - D where:
- (1) "A" is the value of sums initially invested by the *consumer* at the date of calculation if they had been invested in a suitable investment;

		(2)	"B" is the net asset value of the <i>consumer's</i> investment in the Arch cru fund at the date of calculation;
		(3)	"C" is the value of income distributions received by the <i>consumer</i> by the date of suspension; and
		(4)	"D" is the value of sums under the <i>CF Arch cru payment scheme</i> that the <i>consumer</i> is, or was, eligible to receive (whether or not it has been received) where the <i>consumer</i> has retained shares in the <i>consumer's</i> investment.
10.11	R		In a redress case where the <i>consumer</i> has sold all of the shares in the <i>consumer's</i> investment prior to the date of suspension, redress is equal to the sum of A - C - E + I where:
		(1)	"A" is the value of sums initially invested by the <i>consumer</i> at the date of the sale of the <i>consumer's</i> share capital if they had been invested in a suitable investment;
		(2)	"C" is the value of income distributions received by the <i>consumer</i> prior to the date of sale;
		(3)	"E" is the capital realised on the sale of the <i>consumer's</i> share capital; and
		(4)	"I" is simple interest on the result of A - C - E at the Bank of England base rate prevailing from time to time over the relevant period + 1%/365 for each day between the date of the sale of the <i>consumer's</i> share capital and the date of the <i>redress determination</i> .
10.12	R		When calculating the value of "A", "D" and "E" to take into account the net effect of any partial sale of the <i>consumer's</i> share capital during the term of the <i>consumer's</i> investment:
		(1)	deduct the amount of any sale of shares or distribution (including interim or final hardship withdrawals) in respect of the <i>consumer's</i> investment at the date that the sale or capital distribution is made; and
		(2)	for each sale or capital distribution, account for:
		(a)	the growth rate from the time of the original investment, or previous sale or capital distribution, until the time of sale or capital distribution;
		(b)	the value of the residual investment after any sale or capital distribution; and
		(c)	the growth rate from the time of sale or capital distribution up to the date of calculation.
10.13	R		To submit a redress calculation request, send a completed copy of the template to the <i>FCA</i> by email to <a href="mailto:archcrureview@fca.org.uk">archcrureview@fca.org.uk</a> or (if the email is encrypted) <a href="mailto:archcru-reviewpgp@fca.org.uk">archcru-reviewpgp@fca.org.uk</a> .
10.14	G		If the <i>firm</i> is to send an encrypted email to the <i>FCA</i> it will need to download the public PGP key from the <i>FCA</i> website and import the key into its email client software.
10.15	G		Following receipt of the redress calculation request the <i>FCA</i> will send the <i>firm</i> a summary detailing the redress payable for each <i>consumer's</i> investment and the total redress payable to the <i>consumer</i> in the redress case.

## Investment benchmarks

() The following investment benchmarks apply:

Comparator 1:	this comparator is a return equal to the Bank of England official Bank Rate (the 'base rate').
Comparator 2:	this comparator is a return equal to a 50/50 combination of the APCIMS Conservative Index and the IMA Mixed Investment 20-60% Shares sector. This comparator has a listed equity exposure of 20-60% (IMA) and 32.5% (APCIMS).
Comparator 3:	this comparator is a return equal to a 50/50 combination of the APCIMS Balanced Index and the IMA Mixed Investment 40-85% Shares sector. This comparator has a listed equity exposure of 40-85% (IMA) and 67.5% (APCIMS).

Further details of the sectors and indices referred to in the *rule* above can be found at the websites of the relevant organisations:

<http://www.apcims.co.uk/private-investor-indices/about-the-indices/>

<http://www.investmentfunds.org.uk/fund-sectors/sector-definitions/>



## Risks and features of Arch cru funds

- 1 The Arch cru funds consist of two open-ended investment companies, the CF Arch cru Diversified Funds and the CF Arch cru Investment Funds, and their respective sub-funds, sold to consumers during the following periods:  
**Investment funds**  
Investment Portfolio: July 2006 to March 2009  
Specialist Portfolio July 2006 to March 2009  
**Diversified funds**  
Balanced Fund September 2007 to March 2009  
Global Growth Fund: September 2007 to March 2009  
Income Fund: September 2007 to March 2009  
Finance Fund: October 2008 to March 2009
- 2 Dealings in the Arch cru funds were suspended by the authorised corporate director, Capita Financial Managers Ltd ("Capita"), on 13 March 2009.
- 3 The Arch cru funds aimed to achieve their objectives by investing in a broad range of main-stream and non-mainstream assets.
- 4 The Arch cru funds, through transferable securities, ultimately invested in the following asset classes, in various combinations:
  - (a) unlisted equity;
  - (b) unlisted debt instruments;
  - (c) non-UK investments;
  - (d) venture capital or project finance investments;
  - (e) private markets, private equity, private finance;
  - (f) private and structured finance;
  - (g) asset-backed lending;
  - (h) investments in developing countries;
  - (i) collateralised debt and collateralised cash flow financings;
  - (j) life settlements; and
  - (k) commodities.
- 5 Information about each Arch cru fund and its sub-funds is set out below.  
**CF Arch cru Diversified Fund**
- 6 The Diversified Fund was incorporated in June 2002 and originally named "Insinger de Beaufort Manager Selection ICVC".
- 7 The Diversified Fund was re-named the CF Arch cru Diversified Funds in mid-2007. The firms involved in the diversified fund were:  
Authorised corporate director (ACD): Capita  
Investment manager: Arch  
Depository: HSBC Bank PLC

Marketing and distribution: Cru Investment Management Limited, Arch Financial Products LLP

**Income fund**

Promotions

8 The Income Fund was promoted to advisers as an investment in the IMA "Cautious Managed" sector and "a strong alternative to cash based investments and bond based investments".

Features

9 The features of the Income Fund as described to advisers are:

- (a) its objective is long-term capital and income growth.
- (b) it offers both net income and net accumulation shares. For income shareholders, net income was to be distributed half-yearly. For net accumulation shareholders, net income was retained and accumulated for the benefit of shareholders and reflected in the price of the shares;
- (c) from October 2007, its aims were to provide returns of cash + 3% per annum from a diversified pool of assets;
- (d) it can invest in a range of assets including:
  - (i) *collective investment schemes* (which invest principally in equities), *transferable securities*, cash, deposits and money market instruments; and
  - (ii) non-mainstream assets including: private equity; private finance; structured finance and commodities;
- (e) from October 2007, the investment classes are described as bonds, equities and other assets to demonstrate low volatility and correlation with equities and bonds to improve diversity;
- (f) Transactions in *derivatives* will only be used for the purposes of hedging and will not affect the risk profile of the fund.

Risks

10 It is the FCA's view that an investment in the income fund is likely to be high risk and, as such, investors must understand and be willing to accept the following investment risks:

- (a) risk to invested capital and return, in general - the risk that the investment may fall in value;
- (b) exchange rate risk - some of the assets are located overseas and would, therefore, be affected by exchange rate movements;
- (c) credit risk - the risk of failure of an entity or counterparty to an underlying investment. For some of the assets, this risk was greater than for more mainstream listed assets;
- (d) governance risk - where equity or debt instruments are not listed on an exchange, then there may be a higher associated corporate governance risk than with listed assets. Similarly, where assets are located in developing countries, the same increased risk may apply;
- (e) liquidity risk - the risk associated with the fund manager being unable to realise assets quickly without significantly affecting the position of investors; and
- (f) valuation risk - assets not traded on a recognised market can be difficult to value accurately.

**Balanced fund**

Promotions

11 The balanced fund was promoted to advisers as investment in the IMA "Balanced Managed" sector and:

- (a) may be suitable for investors with a low-level risk appetite;
- (b) may be a strong alternative to cash based investments and bond based investments.

Features

- 12 The features of the Balanced Fund, as described to advisers, are:
- (a) its objective is long-term capital growth;
  - (b) it offers net accumulation shares;
  - (c) from May 2008, its aims were to provide returns of cash + 4% per annum particularly over the medium term;
  - (d) it can invest in a range of assets including:
    - (i) *collective investment schemes* (which invest principally in equities), *transferable securities*, cash, deposits and money market instruments; and
    - (ii) non-mainstream assets including: private equity; private finance; structured finance and commodities;
  - (e) it will have a UK overweight portfolio;
  - (f) transactions in *derivatives* will only be used for the purposes of hedging and will not affect the risk profile of the fund.

Risks

- 13 It is the *FCA's* view that an investment in the balanced fund is likely to be high risk and investors must understand and be willing to accept the following investment risks:
- (a) risk to invested capital and return, in general - the risk that the investment may fall in value;
  - (b) exchange rate risk - some of the assets are located overseas and would, therefore, be affected by exchange rate movements;
  - (c) credit risk - the risk of failure of an entity or counterparty to an underlying investment. For some of the assets, this risk was greater than for more mainstream listed assets;
  - (d) governance risk - where equity or debt instruments are not listed on an exchange, then there may be a higher associated corporate governance risk than with listed assets. Similarly, where assets are located in developing countries, the same increased risk may apply;
  - (e) liquidity risk - the risk associated with the fund manager being unable to realise assets quickly without significantly affecting the position of investors; and
  - (f) valuation risk - assets not traded on a recognised market can be difficult to value accurately.

**Global Growth fund**

Promotions

- 14 The Global Growth Fund was promoted to advisers as an investment in the IMA "Global Growth" sector and:
- (a) may be suitable for investors with a low-level risk appetite;
  - (b) to deliver decent absolute returns through a broad exposure to the major asset classes;
  - (c) investing in equity and bond funds and also other assets.

Features

- 15 The features of the Global Growth Fund, as described to advisers, are:
- (a) its objective is long-term capital growth;
  - (b) it offers net accumulation shares;
  - (c) from May 2008, its aims were to provide returns of 6% per annum more than cash returns;
  - (d) it can invest in a range of assets including:
    - (i) *collective investment schemes* (which invest principally in equities), *transferable securities*, cash, deposits and money market instruments; and
    - (ii) non-mainstream assets including: private equity; private finance; structured finance and commodities;

- (e) from October 2007, the investment classes are described as bonds, equities and other assets to demonstrate low volatility and correlation with equities and bonds to improve diversity;
- (f) transactions in *derivatives* will only be used for the purposes of hedging and will not affect the risk profile of the fund.

Risks

- 16 It is the FCA's view that an investment in the Global Growth Fund is likely to be high risk and investors must understand and be willing to accept the following investment risks:
- (a) risk to invested capital and return, in general - the risk that the investment may fall in value;
  - (b) exchange rate risk - some of the assets are located overseas and would, therefore, be affected by exchange rate movements;
  - (c) credit risk - the risk of failure of an entity or counterparty to an underlying investment. For some of the assets, this risk was greater than for more mainstream listed assets;
  - (d) governance risk - where equity or debt instruments are not listed on an exchange, then there may be a higher associated corporate governance risk than with listed assets. Similarly, where assets are located in developing countries, the same increased risk may apply;
  - (e) liquidity risk - the risk associated with the fund manager being unable to realise assets quickly without significantly affecting the position of investors; and
  - (f) valuation risk - assets not traded on a recognised market can be difficult to value accurately.

Finance Fund

Promotions

- 17 The Finance Fund was promoted to advisers as an investment in the IMA "Cautious Managed" sector and:
- (a) providing "steady returns, low risk";
  - (b) aiming to beat both cash and bond returns;
  - (c) as a superior investment to cash deposits and bonds.

Features

- 18 The features of the finance fund, as described to advisers, are:
- (a) its objective is steady capital appreciation over the medium to long-term through exposure to a diversified portfolio of private finance-related instruments;
  - (b) it offers net accumulation shares;
  - (c) from November 2008, its aims were to provide returns of cash + 3% per annum;
  - (d) from November 2008, the investment category is defined as private finance, including bridging finance and term lending;
  - (e) it can invest in a range of assets including:
    - (i) *collective investment schemes* (which invest principally in equities), *transferable securities*, cash, deposits and money market instruments; and
    - (ii) non-mainstream assets including: private equity; private finance; structured finance and commodities;
  - (f) transactions in *derivatives* will only be used for the purposes of hedging and will not affect the risk profile of the fund;
  - (g) it will have a UK overweight portfolio.

Risks

- 19 It is the FCA's view that an investment in the Finance Fund is likely to be high risk, and investors must understand and be willing to accept the following investment risks:
- (a) risk to invested capital and return, in general - the risk that the investment may fall in value;



- (b) exchange rate risk - some of the assets are located overseas and would, therefore, be affected by exchange rate movements;
- (c) credit risk - the risk of failure of an entity or counterparty to an underlying investment. For some of the assets, this risk was greater than for more mainstream listed assets;
- (d) governance risk - where equity or debt instruments are not listed on an exchange, then there may be a higher associated corporate governance risk than with listed assets. Similarly, where assets are located in developing countries, the same increased risk may apply;
- (e) liquidity risk - the risk associated with the fund manager being unable to realise assets quickly without significantly affecting the position of investors; and
- (f) valuation risk - assets not traded on a recognised market can be difficult to value accurately.

**CF Arch cru investment fund**

- 20 The investment fund was incorporated on 29 June 2006. It has two sub-funds: the investment portfolio and specialist portfolio.
- 21 The firms involved in the investment fund were:
- Authorised corporate director (ACD): Capita Financial Managers Limited
- Investment manager: Arch Financial Products LLP
- Depository: Bank of New York Mellon Trust and Depository (UK) Ltd
- Marketing and distribution: Cru Investment Management Limited, Arch Financial Products LLP

**Investment Portfolio**

Promotions

- 22 The Investment Portfolio was promoted to advisers as an investment in the IMA "Cautious Managed" sector and "an excellent replacement for cash based and bond based investments."

Features

- 23 The features of the Investment Portfolio as described to advisers are:
- (a) its objective is to generate consistent returns to provide wealth preservation and capital appreciation;
  - (b) it offers net accumulation and net income shares;
  - (c) in March 2007, its aims were to provide consistent returns of LIBOR + 4% with a significant focus on risk management, this was revised to cash + 4% in August 2007;
  - (d) from March 2007, investment classes are stated as being public market securities and private investments. In September 2007 it is stated that the premise since inception of the fund was that public markets did not represent sufficient future reward for the fund.

Risks

- 24 It is the FCA's view that an investment in the Investment Portfolio is likely to be high risk and investors must understand and be willing to accept the following investment risks:
- (a) risk to invested capital and return, in general - the risk that the investment may fall in value;
  - (b) exchange rate risk - some of the assets are located overseas, and would therefore be affected by exchange rate movements;
  - (c) credit risk - the risk of failure of an entity or counterparty to an underlying investment. For some of the assets, this risk was greater than for more mainstream listed assets;
  - (d) governance risk - where equity or debt instruments are not listed on an exchange, then there may be a higher associated corporate governance risk than with listed assets. Similarly, where assets are located in developing countries, the same increased risk may apply;

- (e) liquidity risk - the risk associated with the fund manager being unable to realise assets quickly without significantly affecting the position of investors; and
- (f) valuation risk - assets not traded on a recognised market can be difficult to value accurately.

**Specialist Portfolio**

Promotions

25 The Specialist Portfolio was promoted to advisers as an investment in the IMA "Active Managed" sector and "an excellent replacement for cash based and bond based investments."

Features

26 The features of the Specialist Portfolio as described to advisers are:

- (a) its objective is "to seek capital growth from an aggressively managed portfolio which may take high cash weightings at times when the investment manager lacks confidence in the outlook for equities, bonds and other asset classes. There is a moderate risk to capital";
- (b) it offers net accumulation and net income shares;
- (c) in March 2007, its aims were to provide consistent returns of LIBOR + 6% with a significant focus on risk management; this was revised to cash + 6% in August 2007;
- (d) from March 2007, investment classes are stated as being public market securities and private investments which are leveraged up to 25%. In September 2007, the fund is described as having a low correlation with traditional public investments such as bonds and equities.

Risks

27 It is the FCA's view that an investment in the Specialist Portfolio is likely to be high risk and investors must understand and be willing to accept the following investment risks:

- (a) risk to invested capital and return, in general - the risk that the investment may fall in value;
- (b) exchange rate risk - some of the assets are located overseas and would, therefore, be affected by exchange rate movements;
- (c) credit risk - the risk of failure of an entity or counterparty to an underlying investment. For some of the assets, this risk was greater than for more mainstream listed assets;
- (d) governance risk - where equity or debt instruments are not listed on an exchange, then there may be a higher associated corporate governance risk than with listed assets. Similarly, where assets are located in developing countries, the same increased risk may apply;
- (e) liquidity risk - the risk associated with the fund manager being unable to realise assets quickly without significantly affecting the position of investors; and
- (f) valuation risk - assets not traded on a recognised market can be difficult to value accurately.