

CONSULTATIVE CONSUMER PANEL

**Minutes of meeting of the 3 July 2009 at 10.30 am
Venue: Central Bank**

Panel Members in attendance: Raymond O'Rourke Chairman
 Kathleen Barrington
 Michael Culloty
 James Doorley
 John Maher
 Noel Mulcahy
 Sean O'Sullivan
 Fiona Reynolds
 Eileen Walsh

Also in attendance: Colette Clancy Secretary to the Panel

Apologies: Frances Byrne
 Fidele Mutwarasibo

1. **Apologies** are as noted above.
2. The minutes of the Panel meeting held on 8 June were agreed with minor amendments.
3. In **matters arising**, the Chairman reported that all actions arising from the June meeting had either been dealt with, or would be discussed during the meeting.
4. **Update on Financial Regulator's Budget and Industry Level for 2009** – Patricia Moloney, Head of FIFA, attended the Panel meeting to update the Panel members on the Financial Regulator's Budget for 2009. Ms. Moloney made a presentation which included figures for the Financial Regulator's budget outturn for 2008 and increases in scheduled budget for 2009. Ms. Moloney outlined to the members that the Industry Funding levy modelling is in progress and following submission and approval by the Minister of Finance the levy notices will issue to industry in August/September 2009.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Moloney for attending the Panel meeting to update the Panel members.

5. **EU Update** – Breda Cassidy, EU and International Coordinator in the Financial Regulator attended the Panel meeting to update the Panel on EU developments. Ms. Cassidy made a presentation to the Panel members on the proposed EU Supervisory Framework. Her presentation informed the Panel about the public consultations on ‘Responsible Lending and Borrowing’ and the ‘Expert Group Report on Credit Histories’. She updated the Panel on the Consumer Credit Directive, European Standardised Information Sheet (ESIS), Alternative Investment Fund Managers (AIFMs) and Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs). A roadmap on financial supervision and regulation was included as an annex to Ms. Cassidy’s presentation. Ms. Cassidy suggested the Panel members review the roadmap and revert directly to her if they have any queries.

The Chairman confirmed that the Panel would make a submission to the consultation on ‘Responsible Lending and Borrowing’. The Chairman thanked Ms. Cassidy for the comprehensive briefing.

6. **Update on the Chairman’s meeting with Minister of Finance on the reform of the regulatory structure, on 29 June 2009** – The Chairman reported to the Panel members on his meeting with the Minister of Finance on 29 June. The Chairman informed the Panel that he planned to draft a letter to the Minister thanking him for taking the time to meet with him and outlining the Panels views on the proposed reform of the regulatory structure in Ireland. The Chairman informed the members that he will also accept the Minister’s offer of a meeting with a sub group of the Panel and the officials in the Department of Finance to articulate the Panel’s views and recommendations in relation to the major regulatory reforms of the Financial Services sector in Ireland.

The Chairman to draft letter to the Minister of Finance and circulate to the Panel for observation and comment.

7. **Mazars Report** – The Panel discussed the Mazars Report and the presentation made by Rose Plunkett, Deputy Head of PFD at the last Panel meeting on 8 June 2009. Following a Panel discussion it was decided that the members should request sight of the full Mazars Report and also requested a presentation by Mazars to the September Panel meeting.

Secretary to liaise with Financial Regulator regarding Panel requests regarding Mazars. Professor Mulcahy volunteered to draft a response to the Financial Regulator to the report.

8. **Meeting with Financial Regulator regarding Translation of Consumer information** – Fidele Mutwarasibo was unable to attend the Panel meeting but he had circulated to Panel members a minute of his meeting with Bernie Mooney, Deputy Head of Consumer Information and other senior staff in the Financial Regulator to discuss issues arising from the Consumer Panel meeting with the ACEO of the Financial Regulator on 11 May 2009.

9. IBF/MABS Protocol – Fiona Reynolds raised the issue of the IBF/MABS Protocol and gave examples of concerns she had experienced with consumer debt in her own legal practice. There was a Panel discussion on the issue and Ms.Reynolds agreed to draw up a paper with recommendations for the Consumer Panel for consideration by the members before the September Panel meeting.

10. Quarterly Report of the Financial Regulator – the Panel were pleased with the content in the quarterly report. James Doorley asked for more information on the themed inspections carried out on the Reporting of Materiality of Charging Errors, under Common Rule 45 of the Consumer Protection Code. Secretary to liaise with Financial Regulator.

11. Performance Review of the Financial Regulator –the Chairman informed the Panel members that the Performance Review is due to be submitted to the Financial Regulator in September. James Doorley volunteered to draft the Performance Review this year.

12. Any Other Business

- Research Projects – there was a short discussion on the Panel’s budget for external research. The Panel agreed that a small project should be tendered for research work regarding credit unions in Ireland. Secretary to carry out tender and draw up the proposed remit of the project.
- Kathleen Barrington circulated a summary of Prof. David Miles report on fixed rate mortgages, which was completed for the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the UK. Prof. Miles now sits on the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England. The Panel decided to invite Dr. Miles to attend the September Panel meeting and present on the issue.
- John Maher suggested that it would be very useful to organise a briefing on the Mortgage Market by the Economic Analysis area of the Central Bank to the Panel. Secretary to organise briefing.

Actions arising from the Consultative Consumer Panel Meeting

On 3 July 2009

Action by	Members interested	Description
Chairman	All	Draft letter to Minister of Finance
Secretary	All	Liaise with Financial Regulator regarding Mazars Report.

Prof. Mulcahy	All	Draft response to the Financial Regulator re Mazars Report
Secretary	James Doorley	Liaise with Financial Regulator regarding themed inspections.
Secretary	All	Carry out tender for research work regarding credit unions
Secretary	Kathleen Barrington	Invite Prof. Miles to the September Panel meeting.
Secretary	John Maher	Organise briefing on Mortgage Market by Economic Analysis.
James Doorley	All	Draft Performance Review of the Financial Regulator for this year.

The next meeting of the Panel will be on the 7 September 2009 at 10.30 am

Prepared: _____ **Date:** _____

Colette Clancy
Secretary to the Panel

Approved: _____ **Date:** _____

Raymond O'Rourke
Chairman