



Press Release

For immediate release

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TISAtch launches largest ever ESG investment strategy evaluation in collaboration with the PLSA

- RFI being issued to over 1,700 asset managers globally to gather information on their ESG-centric investing strategies and new risks facing investors
- The insights will be shared with UK pension trustees and asset owners to support the active management of their exposure to climate change – a major risk to funds
- The information provided by asset managers will allow pension trustees to have better transparency of investing strategies and performance

TISAtch, the new industry-led digital platform for FinTechs – including ESG technologies – launched by The Investing and Saving Alliance (TISA), has sent a Request for Information (RFI) to over 1,700 asset managers globally to gather information about environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues facing investors and their ESG-centric investing strategies. This will be the largest and most substantive research of its kind to date.

This is in a unique collaboration with the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association (PLSA) who support the need for indepth insights into investment strategies and future risks. The RFI has been distributed via investRFP.com, a global platform which supports institutional investors in their fund and asset manager selection process.

A primary objective of this RFI is to share the insights with trustees of UK pension schemes and asset owners to support the active management of their exposure to climate change, in line with the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures recommendations set out by the Pensions Minister earlier this year. This will help pension trustees perform their duties which include governance of climate change as a major financial risk to their investments.

The aggregate data will be used to present those asset managers that demonstrate a commitment to ESG-focused competencies and capabilities to UK pension trustees and asset owners, highlighting expertise and innovation in the investment process. A report will also be published to all key industry policymakers and stakeholders as a mechanism to drive change and greater engagement across the industry.

UK pension schemes and their trustees will be granted access to the responses of asset managers at no cost.

ESG is set to be part of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II (MiFID II) in early 2021 yet a recent report by Rathbones revealed that, despite the incoming regulation, less than a fifth (18%) of advisers said ESG advice was already fully integrated into their business.



Keith Phillips, CEO of TISAtch, said: *“The worlds of investment and ESG are no longer distinct. Gone are the days when pension trustees or asset managers would look to either maximise returns or boost ESG credentials – sustainability is now at the core of any strategy in any portfolio.”*

“TISAtch will help financial institutions navigate the complex and evolving policy, regulatory, and business landscapes to better understand the risks and opportunities related to climate change and sustainability. With increasingly exacting reporting frameworks, a notable cultural shift in the pensions industry, and the rising impact of climate change on equities and funds, an industry-wide shift towards ESG must be made now if financial service institutions are to keep up and limit the risk posed to members’ future retirement incomes.”

“This evaluation, which we hope will become an annual exercise, will support the pensions and wider financial services industry to navigate new risks and will ensure transparency. It will soon become very clear who is adapting and performing well and who is not.”

Joe Dabrowski, Head of DB, LGPS and Standards at the PLSA, said: *“We’re pleased as part of the PLSA’s Investing for Good work programme to be collaborating with TISAtch on this review of asset management ESG strategies. Pension schemes are keenly aware of the impact of climate change on their investments and on saver outcomes. When investing in a climate aware way, and adapting to a fast changing regulatory environment they also need the services and support of asset managers. This results of this work has the potential to create unprecedented transparency in the industry. I know pension funds and key industry policymakers will be interested to see the report of findings.”*

Albert Reiter, Founder and CEO of investRFP.com, said: *“We strongly believe that restriction-free access to neutral and independent best practice implementation solutions is key for the fulfilling of fiduciary duties and attaining common ESG-related goals. In these unsettled times, digitising best practice implementation in fund and manager selection, as well as on-going screening, is not only an efficiency booster, but also a relevant part of business risk management. We are pleased to facilitate the distribution of this RFI for TISAtch and the PLSA. It is the largest of its kind and should provide invaluable insights for pension trustees and asset owners to better navigate risks and to seek better returns. Repeating this on an annual basis would provide valuable in-depth insights for the industry.”*

Ends

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Notes for Editors

<https://www.tisa.uk.com/tisatech/>

The Investing and Saving Alliance (TISA) is a unique and rapidly growing membership organisation. Our mission is to work with our industry members to improve the financial wellbeing of all UK consumers to **deliver practical solutions** and devise innovative, evidence-based strategic proposals for government, policymakers and regulators that address major consumer issues.

TISA membership is **representative of all sectors** of the financial services industry: We have **over 200-member firms** involved in the supply and distribution of savings, investment products and associated services, including the UK's major investment managers, retail banks, insurance companies, pension providers, online platforms, distributors, building societies, wealth managers, third party administrators, Fintech businesses, financial consultants, financial advisers, industry infrastructure providers and stockbrokers.

Complementing our development of consumer policy and commitment to open standards and governance, TISA has become the **pre-eminent membership body for the delivery of digital industry initiatives**, including:

- **Open Savings & Investments** - a fundamental component of Open Finance which will enable our industry to become fully digitally enabled
- **Digital ID** - enabling easy access to all digital services by creating a single, reusable, secure ID owned and controlled by the consumer
- **TISAtech** - the new generation digital marketplace connecting Financial Institutions with FinTechs
- **TISA Universal Reporting Network (TURN)** - an industry-designed blockchain data solution for the collection & dissemination of EMT data

PLSA

[The Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association](#) is a trade association for those involved in designing, operating, advising and investing in all aspects of workplace pensions. The Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association represents 1,300 pension funds which together provide pensions for 22 million people and have more than £1000 billion of assets. Members' pension schemes include defined benefit, defined contribution, group personal pensions and statutory schemes such as those in local government.

investRFP.com

[investRFP.com](#) is an innovative web-based platform and a best practice implementation tool for professional investors. It is based on digital user-friendly technologies to support investors in tackling challenges during the fund and investment manager search, selection and due-diligence process. [investRFP.com](#) is a neutral and independent tool provider and does not interfere at any stage of the decision-making process.



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