Investment Consultants Market Investigation

Response to the Provisional Decision Report:

Malcolm Lee Consulting Limited

This feedback concerns itself with the proposed “Supporting Remedy (A) - extension of FCA regulatory perimeter”.

My background is that I’ve worked in the actuarial industry for the last 40 years, most of it in the area of regulatory compliance.

The actuarial firms that you have so far studied have been those firms which are carrying out regulated investment work either under an FCA licence or under a DPB licence from the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries. I don’t think you have yet considered actuarial firms that have no licence at all.

There will be smaller actuarial firms which provide what is currently unregulated investment advice, such as strategic asset allocation, to their clients. Because that work is currently not within the regulatory perimeter, those firms will not currently need any licence to do that. If you extend the regulatory perimeter to include generic investment advice then such firms may choose to stop providing that advice rather than have the burden of obtaining a licence. That would be to the disadvantage of their clients and would create a barrier to entry and might push more work towards the larger firms.

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