



Centenary lecture

Virtually 100 years to the day GAD was formed, the department hosted its centenary lecture. This article reports from the event, a lecture on the UK's pension and social care systems delivered by the Director of the [Institute for Fiscal Studies \(IFS\)](#) - Paul Johnson CBE.

An actuarial centenary

The centenary lecture on 6 June 2019, marked 100 years of actuarial advice in government. Fittingly, it was held at [Staple Inn](#), the historic home of the actuarial profession. An audience of GAD clients, stakeholders and senior civil servants from across the government's analytical professions were treated to an engaging and insightful presentation by [Paul Johnson](#) our keynote speaker.



Figure 2 - Keynote speaker Paul Johnson addresses the audience

He cautioned that our 'ageing society' creates new challenges for the future, which will require decisive action to overcome:

"But [there will need to be] brave decisions in the near future, to ensure that our health, pensions and social care systems are not just financially sustainable, but also share risks and costs appropriately across and between generations."



Figure 3 - Clients, stakeholders, and senior civil servants were in attendance at the Centenary Lecture



Figure 1 - Government Actuary Martin Clarke is pictured above with 2 of his predecessors, Chris Daykin (left) and Trevor Llanwarne (right)

Sharing a wider perspective

Social security and pensions policy are key areas in which GAD actuaries advise. Paul brought insights from IFS research on public policy to illustrate the progress to date and challenges ahead in dealing with pensions, health and social care provision. In doing so his talk incorporated many risk areas with direct relevance for both GAD and our clients.

Challenges of an ageing society

In celebration of society's achievements during the last century Paul said:

"Increased longevity has been one of the great triumphs of the past century. Getting and keeping pensioner poverty down from the levels seen prior to the mid-1990s is another..."

A new century of learning

To ensure the continued relevance of its advice GAD prides itself on being a learning organisation where stimulating discussion and debate are commonplace. The success of our centenary lecture illustrates this ethos in practice and sets a firm foundation for a century of learning to come.

Paul Johnson's [comments](#) were widely reported in a range of media outlets.