



Forum for public actuaries: learning through sharing

GAD is placing increasing emphasis on our growth as a learning organisation. We are a founder member of, and active participant in, the Forum for Public Actuaries (F4PA), which organises learning events throughout each year for actuaries working for public sector organisations. This article discusses GAD's ambitions to grow further as a learning organisation, and how the F4PA initiative is helping us realise them.



Growing our people

At GAD one of our key aims is to grow and nurture our greatest resource, namely our people. We do this through actively seeking opportunities to improve our knowledge and skills as individuals and as a department. New ideas help us strengthen our client propositions through increased efficiency and greater innovation. In addition, we learn by experimenting, from experience, from others, and by transferring knowledge.

Actuarial ecosystem for the public sector

With over 150 actuaries and actuarial staff, we are proud to be part of a much wider population of actuaries working in public service. These are mostly based in financial regulators such as the Prudential Regulation Authority and Financial Conduct Authority, and pension organisations such as The Pensions Regulator and the Pension Protection Fund. However, some other organisations employ small numbers of actuaries. These provide an important community for GAD to share our experiences with and to learn from.

Forum for public actuaries

The Forum for Public Actuaries regularly brings public sector actuaries together to consider the contribution they can make to topical issues of increasing importance, such as climate change. Its friendly and informal structure provides a unique opportunity for participants to discuss and share their work and professional issues with colleagues who have similar public service ethos and insight. Our most recent sessions have seen:

- GAD present on the actuarial principles behind our advice on setting the discount rate used in valuing damages awarded by courts to injury claimants
- wider experts provide insights on long standing consumer investment 'with profits' products and a new type of pension coming to the UK, Collective Money Purchase

Using PPF's long term risk model to help inform decisions

Assisting government with climate change risk management

Advising on personal injury discount rate

Approaches to assumptions on mortality and longevity risk

Balance of risk in pension schemes

Topics from recent F4PA events

GAD's wider learning

When setting its ambitions for learning growth, GAD is certainly not limiting its focus to engaging with other public sector actuaries. We are a core member of the Civil Service [Analysis Function](#) community and are also passionate about learning directly from the departments and public bodies we work with on a day to day basis. This is done through both informal engagement and, where relevant, hosting specific events to bring together contacts working with similar issues. Through this network of learning focused engagement, GAD will continue to maintain and build our support for the UK government and ultimately the country.