

Isio Investment Conference

1 October 2024

Thinking differently.

Postcards from the conference

Our presenters have written "postcards" from the conference with their own thoughts on their talks. If you would like to hear more about any of these topics please email your usual Isio contact or reach out to marketing@isio.com

Climapocalypse or Climapopia: Building effective climate-aware strategies



We presented at our inaugural investment conference last week, and it was an amazing experience! Mark and I led a session on how to build a climate resilient investment portfolio that can thrive across different unknown climate futures.

Did you know London could have a climate like Barcelona by the end of the century? And the Thames could see major flooding! We managed to pack it with some great technical insights on carbon pricing, infrastructure and natural capital. Very much aligned with the UK governments climate change commitments on solar, wind, and even carbon, capture and storage (CCS).

I know we talk about climate change all the time, but this session was really energising. It was very solutions-focused, which made it feel productive and positive for a change. Hope to catch up soon!

Your climate-aware investment consultants,

Beatrice and Mark



Mark Irish
Sustainable
Investment
Consultant, Isio



Beatrice Smorto
Sustainable
Investment
Consultant, Isio

We were presenting on the theme of investment governance for defined benefit pension schemes at the Isio 2024 Investment Conference.

The main idea that we wanted to discuss was "Investment Governance Rebalancing". We are all used to rebalancing our portfolios when they get out of line. Investment Governance Rebalancing is very similar – every year you should think about how you run your portfolio and whether this needs changing.

- Do you need more help to run the portfolio you want – ie. more delegation of investment decisions? How do you do this safely?
- Or, like many schemes nowadays, has your return target reduced and should you to simplify your governance? Simpler usually means lower cost and less risk.

We had some great questions. This topic is clearly on the minds of many pension trustees.

Anthony and Paula



Paula Champion
Head of Fiduciary
Management
Oversight, Isio



Anthony Webb
Associate Director
Isio

Investment governance: Welcome to the Continuum



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Private market investing and DC: a square peg in a square hole?



It was great to see so much enthusiasm for our session on private markets in DC pensions. It's clear to see that it's an important topic and high on peoples to do lists.

DC schemes have typically stuck to public markets, but now they can diversify and potentially boost returns by dipping their toes into private equity, private credit and infrastructure. These investments can offer better long-term growth and resilience against market volatility – think of it as giving your portfolio a superhero cape! Plus, they provide access to unique assets that aren't available in the public market, such as Natural Capital.

Of course, it's essential to navigate these waters carefully, balancing the higher returns with the associated risks and liquidity considerations. But overall, it's an exciting time for DC schemes looking to innovate and grow.

We look forward to helping people on the journey.

Helyne and Neil



Neil Otty
Head of
Multi-Asset
Research, Isio



Helyne Slade
Head of DC
Investment,
Isio

We hope you're doing well and enjoying yourself! The three of us covered a topic at the conference that we think you'd find super interesting – Natural Capital.

We discussed what we consider natural capital to be and how the asset class has evolved in recent years, as well as the investment and ESG case for investing. The audience were particularly engaged on how investors might build a portfolio in practice, with lots of questions on our case study.

Hopefully we've encouraged some of our clients to consider how they might take advantage of the huge market opportunity that we're seeing.

Can't wait to have you back and keep up the momentum with this topic!

Andrew, Izzie and Georgia



Andrew Singh
Head of Public Sector Investment
Advisory and Head of the Real
Assets Research team, Isio



Iseabail Rioch
Deputy Head
of Real Assets
Research, Isio



Georgia Lewis
Sustainable
Investment
Consultant, Isio

Natural Capital: Past, Present, Future



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Navigating the Private Debt Market: Strategies for Buying and Selling



Hope you are well and surviving the Autumn cold!

I know you were sad to not be able to attend our session, but hopefully this postcard gives you a feel of the excitement that was in the room for our private debt breakout.

We explained the history of private debt, how we have helped many clients access it over the years, and how our incredible research team can help clients moving forwards. We also discussed the impact of the new interest rate environment on private credit, and how our new proposition I-FLO can help investors sell illiquid assets with better outcomes than traditional routes.

It was a great session with lots of interaction and questions – we even got a few laughs at our jokes!

Tom and Sarban



Sarban Hoonjan
Private Debt
Specialist, Isio



Tom Wilson
Head of Credit
Research, Isio

Out of model risk



It was great to speak about something I feel so passionately about. Out of Model Risk is all about contingency planning and mitigating risks for when things go off track – which could be anything from a power failure, to deflation, to defaults.

The thing to remember is that even if your investment strategy is low risk “on paper” you can still get hit by events out of the blue. For example did you know that the probability of the big wobble in the Japanese stock market in August 2024 was 0.000000000000000000000003%. It shouldn't have happened – but it did.

I think every investor should run an “Out Of Model Risk” session like this because everyone's risks are different. It's all about planning in advance. What would you do? How can you prepare?

Barry



Barry Jones
Chief Investment
Officer, Isio



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