



Welcome to our Winter 2023 newsletter



From the introduction of three new members¹ to the launch of a new UKRN network and several working groups², it's fair to say that 2023 has been a busy year of growth for the UKRN.

Our annual conference held in London in April, marked the end of a four year hiatus and was attended by over 100 representatives from regulators, government, consumer groups and wider stakeholders, we explored four key themes for the day; Growth, Climate, Consumers and Resilience.

As I reflect on our successes, I am also reminded of the challenges that we faced in 2023. With inflation figures remaining higher than expected, cost of living and vulnerable consumers remained high on our agenda. In January we congratulated the first cohort of graduates from our Vulnerability Academy – one of many activities delivered during the year to support our regulatory members and increasing skills, knowledge and awareness on this important consumer subject.



In February Prime Minister Sunak performed a cabinet reshuffle and confirmed plans to break up the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), creating a new standalone energy department and refocus the department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. At the UK Regulators Network we increased activity to ensure our reach extended to these newly formed teams to support collaboration, growth and development across all sectors.

The impact of global uncertainty has been felt broadly across the regulatory sphere, our networks have been working hard to identify those associated issues that land closer to home; whether it be increased fuel costs, supply chain disruption or cyber threats.

Networking and collaboration remain at the heart of everything that we do and the support from our members, third-party stakeholders and field experts enables us to continue to learn and grow, and to champion a positive vision of regulation. I would like to thank all the regulator members and their representatives who attend our networks and working groups and who commit their time, expertise, skills and enthusiasm throughout the year.

As 2023 draws to and end, I reflect on my pride for the UKRN team who remain positive, driven and dynamically adaptable to champion these causes on behalf of our members and I am grateful to have this opportunity to wish you all seasonal greetings and best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year.

Attricia Archer,
Director, UKRN



¹ [The Lending Standards Board](#), [Solicitors Regulation Authority](#), and [The Takeover Panel](#)

² [Networks | UKRN: the UK Regulators Network](#)



Feature Article: The new UKRN Governance Network

Back in January 2023, I realised that nothing quite seemed to fit.

That's not only a comment on my clothing, following too much Christmas indulgence, but also what I was thinking about all the existing "corporate governance" groups in and around the City. They were all too focused on the "corporate" side of corporate governance – shareholder relations, the FRC code, managing audit firms – managing regulators, even! - and so on. They did not speak to my particular situation and interests, in the public sector, in a regulator. They were not the right fit.

The penny dropped when I heard about the UKRN, and saw its flourishing family of networks. But none were on corporate governance. So, hoping that others might be experiencing the same 'gap in the market', and with Attricia and Charley's help, we rustled up an initial discussion amongst UKRN members with a view to seeing where it would go.

Following that initial meeting in May this year, we have gone on to formalise the "Corporate Governance Network" of the UKRN, bringing together the governance and company secretary functions across UKRN members for collaboration, discussion and the odd cathartic moment of sharing.

As inaugural Chair, my starting principle for our Network is that it has to 'add' something different beyond the relationships and affinities each existing member already has.

First, that can be, of course, in the regular group meetings, by sharing whatever is "top of mind" or "top of the worry list". It is a safe space for discussing all of this with a group of immensely knowledgeable and experienced professionals.

But second, it is just as important to me that the network benefit happens outside of meetings too – the UKRN is not just something that we do quarterly, it is an ongoing source of advice, know-how and support, so people can get in touch with each other as and when they need a view or a sounding board. I'm always delighted when I see members using the group to email questions and thoughts and set up bilateral calls and so on, as and when they need.

And finally – I want this Network's benefit to be felt throughout the UKRN members' teams. So it is not just a network of the Directors and the Company Secretaries getting together, it is a network for our whole teams, at all levels and stages of their careers.

To start to make that real, we held our first "Knowledge and Networking" event this week at the FCA, specifically for colleagues across other career grades to get together. We had a great turn out, nearly 20 people across our membership, and the conversation was still flowing when I popped by nearly 2 hours later. Thanks to all those who came and made it happen. I really hope we can find ways to do more of this – all of this - in the coming year.

***Miles Bake, Director Financial Conduct Authority
Chair UKRN Governance Network (2023+)***



UK Regulators Network

UKRN News

Demonstrating the reach and breadth of UKRN's membership, we welcome the wealth of experience and knowledge from three new members, who join UKRN with effect from 1st October and look forward to working together over the coming years:

- [Lending Standards Board \(LSB\)](#) joining as associate member
- [Solicitors Regulation Authority \(SRA\)](#) joining as associate member
- [Takeover Panel](#) joining as a network member

Collaboration is at the heart of everything that we do at UKRN and we are delighted to share that in October, two of our members were recognised for their outstanding efforts in collaborating and are Collaboration Network Award Winners:

- ❖ [The Lending Standards Board](#) won the Gold Award for [Culture & Inclusion](#)
- ❖ The [Utility Regulator's](#) NI's Consumer Energy Charter also won the [Collaboration Award](#).

Holyrood Visit

It was a very eventful and rewarding few days for the UKRN team in November, as we travelled to Edinburgh to deliver 3 events in the space of 24 hours. First, we stopped by at the FCA's Edinburgh office as part of our 'on tour' programme of events, some great engagement and questions from the FCA colleagues made it a very timely, valuable and enjoyable visit.

Next, we were off to Holyrood to prepare for our 'tackling the climate crisis and regulatory engagement in Scotland' evening reception with our members, some key stakeholders and the opportunity to meet with MSPs. We were delighted that so many of our members were at the event and so many MSPs (on a very busy events night in Holyrood). Excellent speeches were delivered, including our MSP sponsor, Liam Kerr, and then the opportunity to engage with our members about all things climate and regulation in general.

Our final engagement, a joint breakfast event with UKRN and Consumer Scotland, partnering to deliver 'tackling the cost of living crisis in Scotland', was kindly hosted by Ofcom at their Edinburgh office. The event included powerful presentations from Consumer Scotland, FCA, Ofgem and UKRN was followed by an excellent panel session including CMA, Ofcom, MAPS and Citizens Advice Scotland. The panel answered very well-considered questions from the invited audience and the feedback from delegates regarding the value of the event was extremely positive.

UKRN online Jobs Board launch

We are delighted to announce that the new [UKRN jobs board](#) is now live on our website.

The jobs board aims to promote the exciting and diverse range of career opportunities currently available across our regulatory members and UKRN is delighted to provide this additional recruitment channel, drawing in new talent across a wide range of professions.



Complementing the jobs board, we are also developing careers and early years content, that will further promote the importance and benefits of working within regulation and encourage candidates to apply at every stage of their career. Stay tuned in 2024 for more details on:

- A graduate and apprenticeship rotation program across our members, seeking to broaden the early careers' experience
- Expanding the secondment offering to include government departments, industry, academia and not-for-profit organisations



UK Regulators Network

Publications

1. [Welcoming New Members | UKRN: the UK Regulators Network](#)
2. [Mission Possible | UKRN: the UK Regulators Network](#)
3. [Award Winning Collaboration | UKRN: the UK Regulators Network](#)
4. [UKRN 'On Tour' | UKRN: the UK Regulators Network](#)
5. [UKRN Parliamentary Events | UKRN: the UK Regulators Network](#)
6. [UKRN & WIG webinar: The Role of Regulation in Driving Net Zero | UKRN: the UK Regulators Network](#)
7. [Public consultation: UKRN Strategy 2024-27 | UKRN: the UK Regulators Network](#)
8. [Careers in regulation | UKRN: the UK Regulators Network](#)
9. [Trains, Planes, Automobiles and a ferry! UKRN engagement in Scotland | UKRN: the UK Regulators Network](#)
10. [The Industry and Regulators Committee: UKRN response to call for evidence | UKRN: the UK Regulators Network](#)



Events



- On Friday, 22 September 2023, the UKRN Young Professionals Network held an event in partnership with the UKRN Climate Change network – "[Mission Possible](#)". Panel discussions gave the opportunity for a lot of questions on the impact of climate change on the environment, the challenges it poses to UK regulators, how regulators are meeting these challenges and the roles young professionals have in pushing this forward.
 - [UKRN & WIG webinar: The Role of Regulation in Driving Net Zero.](#)
On Tuesday 5th December, we were delighted to be partnering again with our colleagues at The Whitehall & Industry Group (WIG) for this engaging online panel webinar.
- [The tour continues...](#) During 2023 UKRN 'on tour' has been calling on our members and promoting the work of UKRN, our networks and the role members play in delivering excellence through collaboration. It's fair to say, that with excellent support from our members, we have made very positive in-roads with the programme:
 - Starting in January with the SSRO in London
 - TPR in Brighton in February
 - Tours followed at Ofcom, Ofwat and CAA for a combined visit during March
 - In April we visited ICO
 - The Regulator of Social Housing in May
 - Even storm Ciaran couldn't stop the tour, we braced the elements and visited the offices of the FCA and PSR in Stratford on 2nd November
 - Our final visit of the year was to the FCA Edinburgh office in November



UK Regulators Network

What's Coming Up in 2024

- We are currently working behind the scenes to draft the UKRN Strategy 2024-27. We are aiming to have this document published for public consultation by the new year. Publication of the completed UKRN Strategy 2024-27 will then happen in March 2024.

Alongside this document in March 2024 we will also be publishing our Annual Review and Annual Delivery Plan.



- UKRN will be hosting an event at the Northern Ireland Assembly in Stormont in January 2024, to meet with MLAs and other key stakeholders as part of our ongoing- devolved nations engagement. This follows our visit to Holyrood in Edinburgh in November 2023, to meet with MSPs and key stakeholders. We hope to also visit the Senedd in Cardiff later in the year to engage with members of the Senedd.

Sadly, 2024 will see some significant changes to the UKRN team

- At the end of February we will say goodbye to Mark Austin. Mark joined us in February 2022 and brought with him a strong foundation in project management and a drive that moved several projects from initial concept to delivery; with a focus on innovation and technology, he introduced QR codes as a tool to share information and spent a lot of time updating our website functionality and content. Mark was a familiar face supporting the delivery of many network meetings and events (Climate Change and Cost of Capital to name just two) and Mark returns to his home regulator Ofcom.
- In May we say goodbye to Lewis Behan. Lewis joined us in October 2022 on secondment from ICO and has been leading our work on Vulnerability, the Cost of Living and Data Strategy. In a challenging climate these networks have been integral to prioritising the consumer conversation and with Lewis' support the Vulnerability Academy is just one example of this and Lewis has also designed the UKRN's Cost of Living and Accessibility leaflets, which are due to be released in the coming weeks.
- Later in 2024, our final farewell goes to Stephen Bass. Steve joined UKRN in August 2021, after working at the New Zealand Commerce Commission for 3 years and in June 2024 he returns to his home regulator, Ofgem. Much of Steve's earlier civil service career was focused on low carbon economy and sustainability, and returning to lead the Climate Change network at UKRN was a return to his core passion. Steve has also played a key role on our Workplan 2023 and on delivering our forthcoming UKRN Strategy 2024-27, and has been active externally representing UKRN at a number of external conferences and panel discussions.
- Finally, and on a more positive note, we are delighted to welcome Makedah Simpson who joins the UKRN team in January 2024 from the CAA. Makedah said:

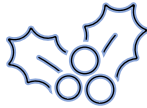


"I am very much looking forward to joining UKRN from January 2024. Currently, I am working at the Civil Aviation Authority as a Policy Advisor within the Consumers and Markets Group and have broad experience working within the fields of Economic Regulation, Consumer Protection and Accessibility. I am excited to work with UKRN's stakeholders and to continue the great work that is already being conducted across the regulatory community."



UK Regulators Network

Christmas Cheer



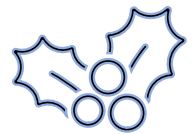
Operation Teddy Bear – Ready Teddy Go!



Collaboration is at the heart of everything we do at UKRN – even when we are not at work. This month we could ‘bearly’ contain our excitement, when our two team members Kevin Smith and Carey Jacques collaborated on a very special project. Kevin generously organised a large donation of new teddy bears to the Edenbridge Trussell Trust Food Bank³, where Carey volunteers each week. The toys will be gifted to the children of clients visiting the Edenbridge Food Bank during the festive season. 65% of all food parcels provided

by the Trussell Trust foodbank network between April and September this year were for families with children. Food banks in the Trussell Trust network distributed 1.5 million food parcels to people facing hardship between 1st April and 30th September 2023 – an increase of 16% compared to the same period in 2022⁴.

It was ‘impawisible’ not to support this worthwhile charity and the UKRN team have foregone the traditional Secret Santa gift and instead have all made a donation to the food bank.



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Contact us

For questions about the UKRN, or to sign-up to our newsletter, please get in touch with:

[Attricia Archer, UKRN Director](#)
[Nicole Trinder, Business support Manager](#)

³ [Edenbridge Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](#)

⁴ [Mid Year Stats - The Trussell Trust](#)