

Regulatory Policy Institute

Annual Westminster Conference

2 May 2018, One Great George Street, London

Theme – Regulatory Pathologies: Diagnosis and Remediation

Programme

- 08.45 Registration
- 09.15 **Session 1: An overview of the issues and first case study.**
- Chair Sonia Brown, RPI and Visa
- Speakers Luke Woodward, Gilbert and Tobin, Sydney, on systemic limitations to regulatory performance
- John Constable, GWPF, on renewable energy policy and regulation
- 10.50 Coffee break
- 11.10 **Session 2: Views from Central Government**
- Chair John Grady, Shepherd and Wedderburn
- Speakers Ed Humpherson, UK Statistics Authority, “Trust, Trustworthiness and the soft-power mode of regulation.”
- Tony Curzon Price, BEIS, “Data: thinking about how we might regulate the public good monopoly that wants to stay private.”
- 12.50 Lunch
- 13.45 **Session 3: Case studies from the energy sector**
- Chair Paul Smith, PSR (ex CEO AEMC)
- Speakers Steve Smith, RPI and Lloyds BankingRPI, on retail energy market regulation
- Eleanor Mack, Fingleton Associates, on the smart metering programme
- 15.20 Coffee Break
- 15.40 **Session 4: Systemic regulatory risks and magical thinking vs realism in diagnosis and remediation**
- Panel and participant discussion
- Chair: Stephen Kinnock, MP
- John Temple Lang, Trinity College, Dublin, on the Brexit tangle
- George Yarrow (chairing the session), RPI, on lessons from past systemic collapses

Outline

The day will comprise a combination of thought pieces and case studies, ending with a general discussion of systemic regulatory risks, including the risk of ‘magical thinking’ about regulation. The aim is to help form a realistic view of the limitations and vulnerabilities of ‘regulation/deregulation in practice’ and to stimulate thinking about ways forward in promoting functionality in regulatory policy.

The first three sessions will be in standard format, each led by two principal speakers followed by around 30 minutes for questions and general discussion. The fourth session will be closer to a ‘panel and participant’ discussion, opened with two shorter presentations on current major policy challenges that involve multiple strands of regulatory activity.