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Meeting:	Financial Services Sector Panel
Location:	Virtual (Platform: Teams)
Date:	3 September 2026 12:00 - 13.30 (GMT)
Present:	Umidjon Khashimov, Vinay Handa, Becky Glover (vice chair), Tania Amin Muhammad, Taurai Manyanga, Kyle Tyrrell, Chris Wilson, Tom McGovern, Mubashir Qayyum, Noah Davis, Matt Lawrie, Jerome Pemberton, Ana Burgos Barcena, David Vessey, Clive Webb (ACCA), Laura Reay (ACCA), Melanie Venes (ACCA)
Apologies:	Jess Ryan (maternity leave), Andrew Tenn, Magda Fisher, Varun Monteiro, Victoria Gillespie (chair), Gayle Devaney, Shazzette Brown, Louise Morriss, Jason A'Court, Joshua El Bidawi, Gemma Gathercole (ACCA)

1. WELCOME, REGULAR BUSINESS & UPDATES

1.1 Welcome and apologies

Vice chair opened meeting and advised on any apologies received

1.2 Previous meeting actions

Actions were reviewed and signed off / carried forward

2. MULTI-GENERATIONAL WORKPLACES

Clive Webb, Head of Business Management at ACCA presented ACCA research on the implications of six generations working together, explaining how demographic change, AI, evolving career structures, and leadership practices require organisations to challenge stereotypes and support individualised, flexible, psychologically safe workplaces. Slides were provided with meeting notes.

3. MEMBER DISCUSSION

The panel discussed how member needs change as careers progress, with experienced members placing greater value on meaningful peer networking, senior-level connections, career-transition support and recognition of their experience.

There was particular interest in more sector-specific technical support, practical CPD and insight relevant to experienced financial services professionals. It was noted that member survey feedback is already informing future activity planning and panel members were asked to highlight any technical areas where they feel ACCA could provide greater support.

The discussion also highlighted that members may not always be aware of the wider opportunities available through ACCA, including speaking, mentoring, judging, awards, podcasts and events. ACCA is reviewing its approach to communications

to improve awareness of these opportunities, while balancing this against communication preferences and the risk of overwhelming members.

The potential for additional modules or recognised learning that experienced members could add to their CV was also raised as a way of encouraging re-engagement. ACCA's employability modules were identified as a potential route, particularly where these can be undertaken by existing members as additional CPD.

4. SECTOR TRENDS & INSIGHTS

The panel discussed a range of emerging issues and potential priorities for ACCA's financial services activity, including a post-Budget briefing, AI governance and audit, crypto and digital-asset regulation, the skills finance professionals will need as AI develops, and the importance of communicating the continuing value of professionally qualified accountants.

Budget briefing
A post-UK Budget member briefing was suggested, covering key changes and their implications, including areas such as taxation and tax planning. Laura noted the suggestion for consideration as part of future member-facing activity.

AI governance and audit
AI governance was highlighted as a significant and developing business issue, alongside the need to consider how AI itself should be audited. The panel discussed whether traditional audit approaches will remain appropriate as AI becomes more embedded in organisations, or whether continuous auditing and new approaches may be required. The lack of consistent best practice around areas such as transparency, accountability and controls was also noted. A planned November session on AI governance and policies was referenced, with the wider points raised to help inform future content.

Crypto and digital assets
The panel highlighted growing interest in crypto and digital assets and the challenges created by differing regulatory approaches across jurisdictions. Podcasts, articles, insights or dedicated sessions were suggested as potential ways for ACCA to provide greater support in this area. Laura confirmed that a possible session is already being explored and will seek further panel input. An offer was also made to support potential speakers and introductions.

AI-resilient skills
The panel raised a wider question around how ACCA can help ensure members are not simply 'AI native' but equipped with skills that remain valuable as elements of finance and accounting work become increasingly automated. This included considering the differentiating human, professional and technical skills that will enable members to remain relevant as roles evolve.

Professional messaging and the value of Accountants
Concern was raised about messaging that presents AI as a replacement for accountants, including examples from software providers and emerging business models where AI tools undertake significant elements of operational and finance activity before accounts reach an accountant for review or sign-off. It was noted that ACCA is already engaging with software providers and other stakeholders

around this narrative, including through roundtable discussions, and updates will continue to be shared with the panel.

Protection of the Accountant title

The panel discussed the fact that 'accountant' is not a protected title in the UK and the potential implications for qualified professionals and the public. This included concerns that the public may reasonably assume anyone describing themselves as an accountant holds an appropriate professional qualification, as well as the commercial impact on qualified practitioners competing with unqualified individuals offering services at lower prices. The discussion reinforced the importance of communicating the value, standards and safeguards associated with professional qualifications.

The panel asked for further clarity on ACCA's position and current activity around protection of the title. It was noted that ACCA has engaged with government and other stakeholders on this issue over a number of years and that discussions continue.

5. DATES FOR THE DIARY – for information

Panel were advised on the upcoming activity and asked to advise if there is anything else that panel and wider membership should be aware of. Nothing further was noted.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next panel meeting is on 1 December 2026 and will be delivered online.

6. CLOSE