

At a glance:

Qualification gap fill

The FSA recognises specified “transitional qualifications”. These are existing qualifications that satisfy the new RDR qualification requirements. Holders of these qualifications will need to bridge any gap between their qualification and the new FSA/FSSC exam standards by the qualification deadline of the end of 2012.

“Transitional qualifications” include the Diploma and Advanced Diploma in Financial Planning, Advanced Financial Planning Certificate (AFPC) and Associateship (ACII) (with appropriate life and pensions modules). A full listing can be found in the FSA Consultation Paper CP10/14 on the FSA website: www.fsa.gov.uk

The CII and PFS are developing an exclusive member-only comprehensive qualification gap fill programme to assist advisers in bridging this gap. This is being delivered in two phases.

Available now:

- **Diagnostic tool** – this enables you to map the gaps between the CII exams you hold and the new FSA new exam standards so you know exactly what areas you need to address. You are also able to maintain a full record of additional compliance activity undertaken, through the self-recording function, to ensure compliance with the new exam standards.

CII/PFS members can access the tool at www.cii.co.uk/gap-fill

Visit www.thepfs.org/gap-fill to watch PFS Chief Executive Officer Fay Goddard presenting an overview of qualification gap fill. You can also view a video demonstration of the tool.

Commencing late August:

- **Solutions** – the market's widest programme of targeted solutions to address identified gaps. These will take a range of forms from online learning, webinars, technical updates and events delivered by the CII and PFS. These will comprise a mix of free and paid for services.

We would recommend that you use the diagnostic tool to identify the steps you need to take so that you can create a development plan that will ensure compliance in good time.