

Question:

What is a Royal Charter?

Answer:

Royal Charters, granted by the sovereign on the advice of the Privy Council, have a history dating back to the 13th century. Their original purpose was to create public or private corporations (including towns and cities), and to define their privileges and purpose. Nowadays, although Charters are still occasionally granted to cities, new Charters are normally reserved for bodies that work in the public interest (such as professional institutions and charities) and which can demonstrate pre-eminence, stability and permanence in their particular field.

Question:

Why did the Institute apply for a Royal Charter?

Answer:

The Institute has long pursued professional standards. Becoming a Chartered Body will gain acknowledgement of the Institute's work in bringing a greater measure of 'professionalism' to the financial services industry, encompassing both skills and ethical behaviour.

Question:

How will a Charter differentiate the Institute from other industry bodies?

Answer:

The Institute is seeking to differentiate itself from trade associations as a professional institution and a registered educational charity, holding a membership of individuals committed to high standards to protect the public. It is hoped that Chartered status will raise the status of the Institute (and its members) to at least an equal footing with other trade bodies in the financial arena. Chartered bodies hold high respect within industry and government. The public are also aware of the enhanced status of Chartered bodies compared to trade associations and even professional bodies.

Question:

How will Chartered status affect Institute members?

Answer:

By belonging to a Chartered professional body, members will benefit from enhanced status in the industry and the wider community. Members will be part of an organisation which holds the respect of government and industry, and can communicate with the public on a whole new level. There will be little doubt in consumers' minds that chartered members of a chartered SII are highly regarded and qualified professionals and as a consequence will be required to act as such.

Question:

How would the Institute's role change with regard to the government?

Answer:

The Institute's role in maintaining standards, not only of individual competence but also in the public interest, will be recognised. Chartered bodies directly influence government policy – they are usually the first port of call for proposed changes in legislation. By gaining Chartered status, the Institute will be centrally involved in the development and communication of industry policy

Question:

How will the Institute's role change in respect of other professional bodies?

Answer:

The Institute is more likely to gain ready access to Government, its agencies and with industry in general. This increased influence should lead to more constructive dialogues and improved outcomes on, for example, consultative matters e.g. the direction of government legislation and the regulation of financial services. It will therefore be able to more effectively communicate and promote standards of excellence in the profession. This will benefit both the industry and the general public.

The Royal Charter will raise the sector's image to the benefit of all industry associations, organisations and trade bodies. We will enhance our dialogue and collaboration with financial institutions and other trade bodies so that we can develop shared aspirations and objectives, so facilitating improved outcomes for the sector.

Question:

Will the running of the Institute change?

Answer:

To all intents and purposes, the day-to-day running and structure will be largely the same. The Privy Council does not have any kind of policing role in respect of Chartered bodies and cannot intervene in their internal affairs. Nor does it have the power to investigate or take a view on any matter of fact or law relating to a Chartered body. However, any changes to a Chartered body's Charter and Bye-laws must be submitted to Privy Council for approval.

Question:

Will individual members have Chartered status?

Answer:

Yes, it will be possible to achieve individual chartered status for those who reach the appropriate criteria as laid down by the Board.

Members not eligible for individual chartered status will still be members of a Chartered Institute. Being a non-chartered member of a Chartered body will still raise the status of the individual. For further details see the Membership FAQs.

Question:

Will this help to attract more members?

Answer:

It is anticipated that the increased profile and importance of the Institute as a Chartered body, together with greater public exposure, will present an attractive opportunity that will encourage more high calibre individuals to apply for membership.

Question:

Will Chartered status affect the cost of membership?

Answer:

Membership subscriptions are reviewed annually by the Board. There are no plans to increase subscriptions as a direct result of gaining chartered status, however consideration will have to be taken of the administrative costs of compliance with recent legislation (Retail Distribution Review, T&C reviews, Charities Act, etc.) when considering subscription levels going forward.

Question:

Will there be a new name or logo to reflect the Institute's new status?

Answer:

The SII brand has continued to develop from its original 'Securities Institute'. The inclusion of 'Investment' in the title in 2004 has served us well both in terms of clarity and in building greater awareness of the brand. Consequently we propose to build on our existing name. The feedback we have received has suggested that we should also include the word 'Chartered' in our name if we are successful. Having given the matter some consideration we have chosen the name Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI). The acronym CISI is a notable change and will take some work to associate it firmly with the original SII brand. As a precaution we have registered the domain names www.cisi.org and www.cisi.org.uk

The new name will appear on all corporate literature and stationery subsequently produced by the Institute.

An application has also been made to the College of Arms for a grant of arms for the new Chartered body.

Question:

What are the timescales for the Chartered status application?

Answer:

The proposed Charter and Bye Laws of the Chartered body were passed to the Privy Council in May 2009 for consideration. These are similar to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Institute as it stands. There is however one major difference concerning these documents. Unlike the Memorandum and Articles of Association once the Charter and Bye Laws have been approved they are very difficult to change. Changes to the Charter would have to go to the Sovereign for approval and changes to the Bye Laws would have to be approved by the Privy Council. Therefore the Charter and Bye Laws were written to show the high level principles behind the work of the SII. The detailed descriptions of our work will appear in the Regulations which is a lower level document that the Membership and by delegation the Board of the SII can change in a similar manner to the ones we use currently.

Notice of the SII's application was placed in the London Gazette on 14th May 2009.

The Privy Council announced that an Order of Grant of a Royal Charter was approved by The Queen in Council on Wednesday 8th July 2009, paving the way for the formation of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI).

Question:

Will there be a new website address?

Question:

Will head office email addresses be changing? If so will the old ones still work?

Question:

As a member do I need to do anything or take any further action now?

Question:

If I need to ask any more questions who can I talk to at head office?

The petition now goes out for publication. This is the process whereby the Charter is handwritten on to vellum and the Royal seals attached in preparation for the Queen's signature. It is only when the Charter has been put on vellum and signed by the Queen that a body is formally recognised as Chartered.

Based upon the information passed to us by the Privy Council we hope to have our Charter by the September / October 2009.

Answer:

We have purchased both the www.cisi.org and the www.cisi.org.uk web domain names for a future website that recognises our new name and status. Use of the old website addresses will still ensure automatic connection to the new site.

Answer:

If email addresses are changed we will ensure that the current email addresses will still reach their intended recipient for the foreseeable future.

Answer:

No. Voting members (FSI (Hon), FSI or MSI) will be asked to approve the new Charter and some administrative issues transferring members and assets to the new Charter company at the AGM in September but details will be sent out with the meeting notice.

The Institute values the opinions of all of its members and is keen to negotiate this process in as open and widely consultative a way as possible.

Answer:

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