Charltons Quantum – Quantum Updates 29 – January 2025

[Online version](https://charltonsquantum.com/quantum-updates-29-hk-sfc-warning-iscat-unlicensed-trading-platform/)

**HK SFC Warns Public About Unlicensed Virtual Asset Trading Platform “iSCAT Exchange”**

On 10 January 2025, the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission (**HK SFC**) issued a public warning against an unlicensed virtual asset trading platform (**VATP**) known as International Standard Carbon Assets Technology Co., Limited, or “iSCAT” and “iSCAT Exchange”. This platform, which claims to provide cryptocurrency trading services, has not been granted a licence by the HK SFC and is therefore operating unlawfully under Hong Kong regulations.

The HK SFC in its publication, revealed that “iSCAT” has been promoting its services through social media, directing potential investors to its website and mobile application for trading cryptocurrencies. Such operations fall under the category of regulated activities as defined in Hong Kong’s Securities and Futures Ordinance (**HK SFO**) and the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance. These laws prohibit entities from carrying out virtual asset services, including the operation of virtual asset exchanges, or marketing such services to Hong Kong investors without the necessary licence.

In response, the HK SFC has added “iSCAT” and its associated website to its Suspicious Virtual Asset Trading Platforms Alert List as of 10 January 2025. The Commission then elaborated on the risks associated with unregulated trading platforms, cautioning that investors could lose their entire holdings in cases of operational failure, cyberattacks, or asset misappropriation. To avoid such risks, the HK SFC advises the public to verify the licensing status of any VATP through its official list of licensed platforms.

This announcement came just days after the HK SFC’s most recent efforts to tighten its monitoring of virtual asset trading platforms. HK SFC has moved quickly to address potential threats to investors, showing its vigilance in combating unlawful activities in the rapidly evolving cryptocurrency sector.

(Source: <https://apps.sfc.hk/edistributionWeb/gateway/EN/news-and-announcements/news/doc?refNo=25PR3>)

**UK FCA Fines Arian Financial LLP £288,962.53 for Failures Linked to Cum-Ex Trading**

On 10 January 2025, the United Kingdom Financial Conduct Authority (**UK FCA**) announced that it had fined Arian Financial LLP £288,962.53 for failings in its systems and controls against financial crime. The UK FCA found that Arian’s shortcomings exposed the firm to risks of facilitating fraudulent trading and money laundering linked to cum-ex trading schemes and withholding tax reclaims.

The investigation revealed that between January and September 2015, Arian executed over-the-counter equity trades totalling approximately £37 billion in Danish equities and £15 billion in Belgian equities for clients associated with the Solo Group. These trades, described as circular and indicative of financial crime, were used to arrange withholding tax reclaims in Denmark and Belgium. During the period in question, the Solo Group submitted tax reclaims amounting to £899.27 million to Danish authorities and £188 million to Belgian authorities, of which payments of £845.9 million and £42.33 million, respectively, were disbursed.

Arian earned approximately £546,949 in commissions from these trades but failed to implement adequate systems to detect or prevent suspicious activities. The UK FCA identified clear red flags in Arian’s operations that the firm neglected to address, in breach of Principles 2 and 3 of the UK FCA’s Principles for Business, which require firms to conduct their activities with due skill, care, and diligence and maintain effective risk management systems.

While Arian admitted liability, it challenged the UK FCA’s proposed fine of £744,745 at the Upper Tribunal. The Tribunal upheld the seriousness of Arian’s misconduct but reduced the fine to £288,962.53, taking into account net financial benefits received by Arian after fees paid to Solo Group entities and brokers.

This case is the UK FCA’s seventh enforcement action concerning cum-ex trading, which involves exploiting dividend arbitrage strategies to reclaim withholding taxes inappropriately. The UK FCA has previously imposed over £22 million in fines related to cum-ex and withholding tax schemes, working collaboratively with EU and global law enforcement agencies to address such misconduct.

Steve Smart, the UK FCA’s Joint Executive Director of Enforcement and Market Oversight, stated: “Arian failed to identify red flags which ought to have been obvious. The controls the firms we regulate have in place are an important line of defence against our financial system being abused for criminal ends. Arian’s fell short of what we expect. We are pleased that the Tribunal recognised the seriousness of Arian’s misconduct.”

By holding firms accountable for lapses in financial crime controls, the UK FCA aims to uphold trust and transparency within the UK financial sector.

(Source: <https://www.fca.org.uk/news/press-releases/fca-fines-arian-financial-llp-failings-relating-cum-ex-trading>)

**Gemini Trust Fined $5 Million for Misleading the US CFTC on Bitcoin Futures Product**

On 13 January 2025, the United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission (**US CFTC**) announced that Gemini Trust Company LLC, a New York-based trust company, has been ordered by the US District Court for the Southern District of New York to pay a $5 million civil monetary penalty by a [consent order](https://www.cftc.gov/media/11721/enfgeminitrustcompanyorder010625/download). This penalty follows findings that Gemini made materially false or misleading statements and omissions during the self-certification process for a bitcoin futures product.

The case, which began with a US CFTC complaint on 2 July 2022, involved allegations of misconduct by Gemini from July to December 2017. During this period, Gemini’s representatives made or failed to disclose certain critical facts to the US CFTC about the bitcoin futures contract, which was to be settled based on the spot bitcoin price determined through an auction held on the Gemini platform. These misrepresentations, which included false claims about prefunding requirements, trade volumes, liquidity, and fee rebates, were deemed material to the US CFTC’s assessment of whether the contract was susceptible to manipulation​.

The consent order imposes a permanent injunction on Gemini, prohibiting it from making similar misleading statements to the US CFTC in the future. The US CFTC stated that such actions undermine market integrity and its regulatory oversight, particularly in relation to complex digital asset derivatives. The court’s ruling also serves as a warning to other market participants about the consequences of providing false information to regulators​.

The US CFTC initiated the legal proceedings with a complaint filed on 2 July 2022. It took over two years and six months for the case to conclude with the court’s final order issued on 6 January 2025.

 (Source: <https://www.cftc.gov/PressRoom/PressReleases/9031-25>, <https://www.cftc.gov/media/11721/enfgeminitrustcompanyorder010625/download>)

**Mosaic Exchange Ltd. and CEO Ordered by US CFTC to Pay Over $1.1 Million for Cryptocurrency Fraud Scheme**

On 13 January 2025, the United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission (**US CFTC**) announced that Mosaic Exchange Ltd. and its CEO, Sean Michael, have been ordered by the US District Court for the Southern District of Florida (case 9:23-cv-8130-AMC) to pay over $1.1 million in penalties and restitution. This judgment follows findings of fraudulent digital asset solicitation and trading activities conducted between February 2019 and June 2021.

US CFTC filed a complaint on 26 September 2023, alleging that Mosaic and Michael fraudulently solicited 18 individuals to trade Bitcoin and other digital asset commodities, misrepresented their assets under management, fabricated trading success rates, and misappropriated customer funds. These violations contravened the US Commodity Exchange Act (**CEA**) and US CFTC regulations. The defendants, who failed to respond adequately to legal proceedings, were found liable by default judgment orders entered on 23 December 2024 and 30 December 2024​​.

The court ordered restitution of $468,600 to affected customers, disgorgement of $60,980 in ill-gotten gains, and a $660,000 civil monetary penalty. Mosaic and Michael are also permanently barred from registering with the US CFTC and trading in US CFTC-regulated markets. Additionally, they are prohibited from engaging in any commodity-related activities or making misleading statements about their operations​.

The US CFTC uncovered that Mosaic falsely claimed tens of millions of dollars in assets under management, fabricated monthly profit rates, and advertised fictitious partnerships with cryptocurrency exchanges such as Binance and BitMEX. In reality, Mosaic managed less than $700,000 and generated consistent trading losses. Sean Michael used customer funds for personal expenses, including travel and dining, while failing to return any funds to investors​​.

The investigation, supported by extensive documentation and financial records, revealed that the fraudulent activities targeted individuals in the United States and abroad. Mosaic and Michael’s failure to comply with procedural requirements in the case, including multiple court orders, led to the default judgment​​.

The US CFTC filed its initial complaint on 26 September 2023. After numerous failed attempts to serve the defendants, the court granted a [Final Default Judgment](https://www.cftc.gov/media/11726/enfmosaicexchangeltdfinaldefaultjudgement123024/download) on 23 December 2024, followed by an additional [order](https://www.cftc.gov/media/11731/enfmosaicexchangeltdordergrantingfinaldefaultjudgement122324/download) on 30 December 2024.

(Source: <https://www.cftc.gov/PressRoom/PressReleases/9032-25>, <https://www.cftc.gov/media/11726/enfmosaicexchangeltdfinaldefaultjudgement123024/download>, <https://www.cftc.gov/media/11731/enfmosaicexchangeltdordergrantingfinaldefaultjudgement122324/download>)

**US SEC Fines Robinhood Broker-Dealers $45 Million for Regulatory Violations**

On 13 January 2025, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (**US SEC**) published [order](https://www.sec.gov/files/litigation/admin/2025/34-102170.pdf) instituting administrative and cease-and-desist proceedings, pursuant to sections 15(b) and 21c of the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, making findings, and imposing remedial sanctions and a cease-and-desist order civil penalties totalling US$45 million against Robinhood Securities LLC and Robinhood Financial LLC for multiple violations of federal securities laws. This enforcement action addresses lapses in their brokerage operations, including trading activity reporting, regulatory compliance, recordkeeping, and safeguarding customer information.

The US SEC’s investigation revealed a series of violations by Robinhood firms between 2018 and 2024, including delays in filing suspicious activity reports, inadequate identity theft prevention measures, improper handling of off-channel communications, and deficiencies in cybersecurity safeguards. Robinhood Securities was specifically penalised for breaches related to electronic blue sheet data, fractional share trading, and non-compliance with Regulation SHO, rules designed to prevent abusive short selling practices.

From January 2020 to March 2022, Robinhood failed to promptly investigate and report potentially suspicious activities flagged in its systems. Moreover, a cybersecurity vulnerability exploited in November 2021 resulted in unauthorised access to sensitive customer information, impacting millions of individuals. The firms also failed to preserve required brokerage data, including communications and customer notifications, due to operational deficiencies.

The US SEC order also detailed that Robinhood Securities submitted over 11,849 incomplete or inaccurate electronic blue sheets, misreporting data for 392 million transactions over five years. Additionally, Robinhood violated order-marking and close-out requirements for short sales under Regulation SHO, mislabelling millions of transactions and failing to maintain compliance systems.

In response to the US SEC’s findings, Robinhood Securities agreed to pay $33.5 million in penalties, while Robinhood Financial consented to $11.5 million fine. Both firms admitted to certain violations and agreed to undertake comprehensive internal audits to address deficiencies in compliance with communication, data retention, and cybersecurity standards. Robinhood Securities is also required to certify its remediation of Regulation SHO-related shortcomings.

These penalties were imposed following an extensive investigation by US SEC offices in New York and San Francisco, with assistance from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (**FINRA**). The penalties come more than a decade after Robinhood’s launch as a disruptive trading platform.

(Source: <https://www.sec.gov/files/litigation/admin/2025/34-102170.pdf>, <https://www.sec.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2025-5>)

**Swiss FINMA Published Guidance on Reporting for Collective Investment Schemes**

On 13 January 2025, the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (**FINMA**) released updated [guidance on reporting requirements](https://www.finma.ch/en/~/media/finma/dokumente/dokumentencenter/myfinma/2ueberwachung/erhebung-asset-management/guidance-cis-reporting.pdf?sc_lang=en&hash=F2494FE22B179F6017B47AB2F99A2AE6) for collective investment schemes (**CIS**). This guidance note by FINMA’s Asset Management division, provides detailed instructions for financial intermediaries on how to report data related to investment funds, including liquidity, leverage, and counterparty risks, as part of an annual supervisory framework. The guidance aims to enhance systemic risk identification and improve oversight of fund management practices.

The updated rules apply to all Swiss funds with net assets exceeding CHF 500 million and foreign funds managed by Swiss entities meeting the same threshold. These funds must provide detailed reporting, focusing on funds employing alternative investment strategies such as hedge funds, private equity funds, and commodity funds. Smaller funds below the CHF 500 million threshold are excluded from the reporting requirements.

The reporting obligations cover banks, securities firms, insurance companies, and fund management companies operating within the scope of the Swiss Financial Institutions Act (**FinIA**), the Swiss Banking Act (**BA**), and the Swiss Insurance Supervision Act (**ISA**). These entities must:

1. Submit annual data reports on exposures, liquidity, leverage, and counterparty risks for funds under their management.
2. Provide data on both Swiss-domiciled funds and foreign funds managed from Switzerland that surpass the CHF 500 million net asset threshold.
3. Ensure data submission adheres to the cut-off date of 31 December, with a final submission deadline of 31 March the following year.

The guidance also outlines technical requirements, including the use of FINMA-provided Excel templates or XML Schema for reporting, and specifies the inclusion of key fund identification details such as net fund assets, leverage calculations, and liquidity risk metrics.

The updated guidance is part of FINMA’s efforts to align with international standards, addressing data gaps in risk reporting for collective investment schemes. By collecting risk-based data, FINMA seeks to improve the supervision of fund management, enabling a more accurate assessment of systemic risks within the Swiss and global financial ecosystems.

FINMA may exempt certain funds from reporting if they pose minimal leverage or financial stability risks. The new framework ensures that data collection focuses on funds with significant potential impact, streamlining oversight while maintaining regulatory rigour.

The updated reporting requirements takes immediate effect, with the first reporting cycle starting on 1 January 2025 and ending on 31 December 2025. Entities are required to submit their reports to FINMA by 31 March 2026.

The updated FINMA guidance reflects a comprehensive approach to strengthening the regulatory oversight of collective investment schemes. By focusing on larger funds and high-risk strategies, the initiative enhances FINMA’s ability to monitor systemic risks and ensure the stability of the financial market in Switzerland. Financial intermediaries must now align their reporting practices with the updated requirements to remain compliant.

(Source: <https://www.finma.ch/en/documents/>, <https://www.finma.ch/en/~/media/finma/dokumente/dokumentencenter/myfinma/2ueberwachung/erhebung-asset-management/guidance-cis-reporting.pdf?sc_lang=en&hash=F2494FE22B179F6017B47AB2F99A2AE6>)

**US CFTC Announces Departure of Clearing and Risk Director Clark Hutchison**

On 13 January 2025, the United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission (**US CFTC**) announced the departure of Clark Hutchison, Director of the Division of Clearing and Risk, effective 15 January 2025. Hutchison has led the division since July 2019.

Clark Hutchison managed the supervision of derivatives clearinghouses and their members, ensuring rigorous oversight through risk assessment and surveillance. Before joining the US CFTC, he held senior roles in prominent global financial institutions, focusing on clearing and risk management. His extensive experience includes serving as a special advisor to the board of the Futures Industry Association, a member of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange’s Risk Committee, and a board member of NASDAQ Futures, Inc.

Clark Hutchison’s appointment as Director of the Division of Clearing and Risk commenced in July 2019. His departure, announced two days prior to his final day on 15 January 2025, comes 2,016 days after he assumed the role.

US CFTC Chairman Rostin Behnam stated: “Clark has led the Division of Clearing and Risk with distinction for nearly six years, bringing extensive market experience to the US CFTC, and guiding the Commission through periods of immense market growth, multiple episodes of historic volatility, and significant changes in market structure. Clark’s precise, thoughtful and practical approach to management and financial markets policy will be missed across the US CFTC. I wish Clark well as he turns to new opportunities in his career.”

Clark Hutchison in his statement stated: *“I want to thank Chairman Behnam for appointing me to lead the Division of Clearing and Risk, I especially want to thank the staff of the division and all of US CFTC for making this job one of the highlights of my career.”*

(Source: <https://www.cftc.gov/PressRoom/PressReleases/9030-25>)

**ASIC Seeks Feedback on Extending Relief for Business Introduction Services**

On 13 January 2025, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (**ASIC**) announced that it is consulting on the future of the ASIC Corporations (Business Introduction Services) [Instrument 2022/805](https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2022L01274/latest/text) (the Instrument). The Instrument, which provides conditional regulatory relief for certain business introduction services, is set to expire on 1 April 2025.

ASIC is inviting feedback on two key issues: whether the relief for managed investment schemes should be extended and whether previous relief for securities, other than debentures, should be reinstated. Submissions must address why such reinstatement is necessary, particularly if the crowd-sourced funding (**CSF**) regime under the Corporations Act 2001 does not adequately support small- to medium-scale capital raisings. Stakeholders have until 5 February 2025 to provide input.

The Instrument grants conditional relief from specific provisions in the Corporations Act, including fundraising, financial product disclosure, hawking, and advertising requirements, for those operating business introduction services. However, it does not exempt service providers from holding Australian financial services (**AFS**) licence if their activities involve providing financial services. The Instrument also mandates lodging a notice of reliance, though ASIC reports minimal use of the Instrument for managed investment schemes since October 2022.

Business introduction services, which identify investors for issuers or sellers by sharing investment opportunities, have benefited from similar relief provisions since 2002. These provisions were initially granted under ASIC Class Order [CO 02/273], extended multiple times, and eventually replaced by the current Instrument in 2022.

When the Instrument was issued in 2022, ASIC opted not to extend relief for securities, citing the flexibility and affordability of the CSF regime for small- and medium-sized unlisted companies. The regime includes investor protection measures and does not require disclosure for offers made to wholesale or sophisticated investors. At the time, ASIC noted limited reliance on the previous Class Order for raising funds through business introduction services.

ASIC now seeks input on whether reinstating relief for securities is justified, particularly in cases where the CSF regime is perceived as insufficient. Respondents are expected to outline the benefits of such changes and provide evidence supporting their position.

The consultation period ends at 5 pm AEDT on 5 February 2025, giving stakeholders 23 days to submit feedback. Following this, ASIC will evaluate the responses and determine whether to extend or adjust the regulatory relief for business introduction services. The outcome will impact managed investment schemes and potentially companies seeking to raise capital through these services.

(Source: <https://asic.gov.au/about-asic/news-centre/news-items/asic-consults-on-relief-for-business-introduction-services/?altTemplate=betanewsroom>)

**US CFTC and Bank of England Collaborate on Report Enhancing Margin Practices in Cleared Markets**

On 15 January 2025, the United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission (**US CFTC**) and the Bank of England issued statements on the release of Final Report on [Transparency and responsiveness of initial margin in centrally cleared markets – review and policy proposals](http://www.cftc.gov/exit/index.htm?https://www.iosco.org/library/pubdocs/pdf/IOSCOPD783.pdf) addressing transparency and responsiveness of initial margin in centrally cleared markets. The report, published by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (**BCBS**), the Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures (**CPMI**), and the International Organization of Securities Commissions (**IOSCO**), represents a culmination of collaborative efforts to strengthen financial stability in response to market challenges observed in recent years.

The report was co-chaired by the US CFTC and the Bank of England. It builds on the September 2022 report [Review of Margining Practices](http://www.cftc.gov/exit/index.htm?https://www.bis.org/bcbs/publ/d537.pdf), which identified six critical areas for policy improvement following the market turmoil in March 2020. After extensive data analysis and consultations with industry stakeholders, the group finalised 10 policy proposals aimed at improving the transparency of margin practices and ensuring better responsiveness in centrally cleared markets.

The collaborative efforts began in response to the heightened volatility in financial markets during March and April 2020. The newly published report incorporates findings from a comprehensive review of margin calls during that period and further analysis conducted during the commodity market volatility in 2022.

Industry consultation and public feedback in 2024 played an important role in refining the proposals. The ad hoc BCBS-CPMI-IOSCO margin group conducted outreach events and sought input from a wide range of market participants, ensuring the final recommendations addressed practical challenges while maintaining financial stability.

In addition to this report, related publications include the CPMI and IOSCO report on streamlining variation margin processes in cleared markets and the BCBS and IOSCO report on margin models in non-centrally cleared markets, reflecting a coordinated effort to address margining issues across financial sectors.

The 10 policy proposals aim to enhance the transparency of margin frameworks, improve the evaluation of margin responsiveness, and strengthen the financial resilience of cleared markets. Sasha Mills, Executive Director for Financial Market Infrastructure at the Bank of England, praised the international coordination and stated:*“The international work on centrally cleared initial margin is a powerful example of addressing financial stability risks through international coordination across authorities and committees. The Bank will continue to support this work as standard-setting bodies consider how best to implement the proposals.”*

Richard Haynes, Deputy Director of the US CFTC’s Division of Clearing and Risk, stated: *“The BCBS-CPMI-IOSCO margin group, by focusing on detailed data from a broad set of global regions, was able to sift between market rumours and reality, and achieve a balanced and pragmatic set of policy conclusions for implementation.”*

The initial discussions following the March 2020 market turmoil led to the September 2022 report that identified key areas for improvement. After approximately 854 days of data analysis, consultation, and policy development, the final report was released on 15 January 2025.

(Source: <https://www.cftc.gov/PressRoom/PressReleases/9034-25>, <https://www.iosco.org/library/pubdocs/pdf/IOSCOPD783.pdf>)

**US SEC Chief Economist Jessica A. Wachter to Depart, Returning to Academia**

On 15 January 2025, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (**US SEC**) announced the upcoming departure of Jessica A. Wachter, Chief Economist and Director of the Division of Economic and Risk Analysis (**DERA**). Jessica A. Wachter, who has led the division since mid-2021, will leave the US SEC on 17 January 2025 to resume her academic career at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

US SEC Chair Gary Gensler commended Wachter for her significant contributions to the agency, stating: *“I thank Jessica for her leadership of the Division of Economic and Risk Analysis, her judgement, and her thoughtful economic analysis. As Chief Economist, she ably led a division that has a seat at the table for all of the SEC’s critical decision making, whether it’s policymaking, enforcement, or monitoring markets. I have enjoyed and learned so much from working with Jessica who has been one of my closest advisors. I wish her very well as she returns to academia.”* Under Jessica A. Wachter’s guidance, DERA conducted over 100 economic analyses, supporting key rulemaking initiatives such as the implementation of central clearing in the Treasury market, the reduction of settlement cycles, enhancements to money market fund resilience, and improved transparency regarding cyber risks. Her tenure also saw advancements in data accessibility and its application to enforcement cases, including the calculation of ill-gotten gains and the return of funds to investors.

Jessica Wachter joined the US SEC in 2021, bringing with her an extensive academic and professional background. She served as a professor at the Wharton School, where she specialised in quantitative finance, and taught previously at NYU’s Stern School of Business. Her tenure at the SEC spanned approximately three and a half years, during which she played a key advisory role in the Commission’s initiatives.

Dr. Jessica Wachter said: *“It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the Chief Economist and Director of the Division of Economic and Risk Analysis, I am grateful to Chair Gensler for giving me this tremendous opportunity. I am also grateful to the Chair and the Commission for their support through the last three and a half years and to the Division’s talented staff, who have taught me so much.”* Reflecting on her time at the US SEC, Wachter expressed gratitude for the opportunity to lead DERA and work alongside its talented staff. She praised the division’s accomplishments in providing economic analysis that informed critical regulatory and enforcement decisions.

Wachter’s departure, announced two days before her final day at the US SEC, marks 1,310 days since her appointment. On 17 January 2025, she will officially return to Wharton as the Dr. Bruce I. Jacobs Chair of Quantitative Finance. As she transitions back to academia, her influence on financial economics and policy-making is expected to continue in her new role at Wharton.

(Source: <https://www.sec.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2025-11>)

**ASIC Appoints Scott Gregson as CEO During Organisational Transformation**

On 16 January 2025, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (**ASIC**) announced the appointment of Scott Gregson as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective 17 March 2025. Gregson, who brings nearly three decades of regulatory and enforcement experience from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (**ACCC**), will succeed retiring interim CEO Greg Yanco.

ASIC Chair Joe Longo praised Gregson’s extensive background and leadership qualities, stated: *“Scott is an impressive leader and will bring extensive experience to this important role, his commitment to achieving regulatory outcomes that benefit all Australians makes him a strong addition to support ASIC’s commission and head the agency’s executive leadership team.”*

Mr. Scott Gregson’s appointment comes during a pivotal phase in ASIC’s transformation, which began three years ago and has seen the organisation undergo its most significant structural redesign in 15 years. Recent additions to ASIC’s leadership team include Executive Directors for Enforcement and Compliance, Regulation and Supervision, Data, Digital and Technology, as well as a Chief People, Culture and Transformation Officer. Mr. Gregson is expected to build on this momentum and help the regulator address emerging challenges in an increasingly complex financial landscape.

Gregson expressed enthusiasm for his new role, noting the importance of ASIC’s work in a time of heightened cost-of-living pressures. He pledged to continue advancing ASIC’s objectives and leveraging his regulatory expertise to strengthen the organisation’s impact.

Chair Longo extended gratitude to retiring interim CEO Greg Yanco for his contributions to ASIC stating:*“Greg has been an integral part of Australia’s financial services landscape not just in his various senior executive roles at ASIC, but previously at the ASX.”*

Mr. Scott Gregson has been with the ACCC since 1996, most recently serving as its Chief Executive Officer. During his tenure, he held senior roles in mergers, enforcement, and investigations, leading high-profile litigation against companies such as Volkswagen, Coles, and Apple. As ACCC CEO, he spearheaded its digital and data transformation initiatives. Gregson holds a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Economics and Business Law, from Curtin University.

Scott Gregson’s official appointment starts on 17 March 2025. Gregson’s leadership is anticipated to bolster ASIC’s position as a modern, adaptive regulator committed to protecting the interests of Australian consumers and markets.

(Source: <https://asic.gov.au/about-asic/news-centre/find-a-media-release/2025-releases/25-001mr-asic-appoints-scott-gregson-as-ceo/?altTemplate=betanewsroom>)

**This newsletter is for information purposes only.**

This newsletter and the information contained herein is not intended to be a source of advice or credit analysis with respect to the material presented, and the information and/or documents contained in this newsletter do not constitute investment advice.

Cryptocurrency markets are highly volatile and speculative in nature. The value of cryptocurrencies can fluctuate greatly within a short period of time. Investing in cryptocurrencies carries significant risks of loss. You should only invest what you are prepared to lose.

The content on this newsletter is for informational purposes only. You should not construe any such information or other material as legal, tax, investment, financial, or other advice. Nothing contained on our newsletter constitutes a solicitation, recommendation, endorsement, or offer to buy or sell any cryptocurrencies, securities, or other financial instruments.

We do not guarantee or warrant the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information on this site. Any reliance you place on such information is strictly at your own risk. We disclaim all liability and responsibility arising from any reliance placed on such materials by you or any other visitor to this newsletter, or by anyone who may be informed of any of its contents.

Your use of this newsletter and your reliance on any information on the site is solely at your own risk. Under no circumstances shall we have any liability to you for any loss or damage of any kind incurred as a result of the use of the newsletter or reliance on any information provided on the newsletter.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter please let us know by emailing us at [unsubscribe@charltonslaw.com](mailto:unsubscribe@charltonslaw.com?subject=unsubscribe%20-Hong%20Kong%20Law-)

Charltons Quantum – Quantum Updates 29 – January 2025