



You know you've arrived when the press start calling...

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This morning Libertatem took a call from a trade journalist asking us how we were doing.

We were able to report that we are doing rather well. Post-Brexit, there appears to be a resurgent interest in trade associations. Libertatem's membership has increased by over 30 per cent in the last six weeks alone and, as we enter our second year of existence, renewals are currently running at over 95 per cent. So it looks like we are here to stay!

Theresa May's new government has promised a more open approach. It is a positive development that we intend to exploit. We have new ministers who need to understand the issues - with the rising costs of the regulator, longstop and a FSCS product levy being at the top of our list. We are already preparing scripts for advisers to use with their local MPs at their surgeries in September.

More professional advisers are realising that change is possible and that it is time to stop watching from the side-lines and become more actively involved in shaping the future of financial services in the UK.

Many adviser-owned firms feel that Libertatem is offering them that opportunity. All over the country, advisers are contacting us not just offering their support, but asking what else they can do to spread the word and help us grow. We have already appointed three area coordinators and hope to have the country covered by the end of the year.

The past few months have seen a Treasury Select Committee take issue with the FCA over a number of issues, not least our Heath Report. We have also seen a cross-party group of MPs supporting our activities with the lack of both regulatory accountability and transparency being the biggest concern.

Meanwhile, the financial press is taking more notice; they are now contacting us to comment on industry news and get our opinions on proposed initiatives, appointments and events.

Libertatem has now gained both the confidence of adviser firms and the financial support required to become an effective and proactive trade association - one that can actually make a real difference.

We are now beyond the point of no return. If you are not currently a member of Libertatem, we would like you to join. That way you can have a voice and a brighter future.