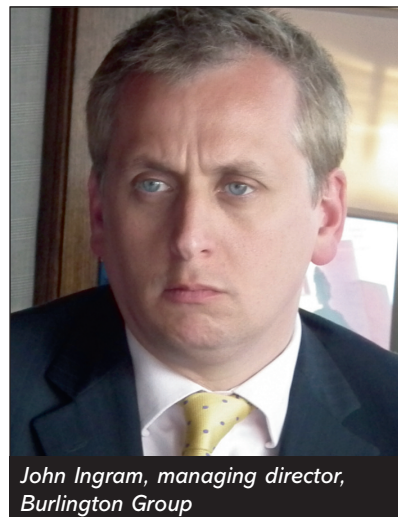


The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has named Burlington Group as the first debt collection firm to be authorised as a principal business. Authorisation as a principal means that Burlington will be able to engage appointed representatives to carry out regulated debt collection activities under the supervision of the firm.

John Ingram, managing director, said: "We have worked incredibly hard and to some intense timeframes to achieve authorisation in such a short space of time."

Sales director, Adam Wonnacott added: "The debt collection industry is in a period of adjustment and there is an element of uncertainty as regards who will remain once the waves of the FCA authorisation process have receded."



*John Ingram, managing director,
Burlington Group*

>> TDX Group has announced that its Charity Ball raised £40,000 for The Ear Foundation. The ball had almost 250 attendees made up of TDX Group clients, suppliers, local businesses and representatives from The Ear Foundation.

CEO, Mark Sanders, said: "We set out with a goal of raising £20,000 for The Ear Foundation, so I am absolutely overwhelmed at the generosity of everyone who attended."

Spratt Endicott Solicitors and Alfred Truman Solicitors have announced that they have merged.

John Spratt, partner at Spratt Endicott Solicitors, said: "This merger is between two established law firms who want to work together in offering clients a broader range of expertise and improved access to that expertise.

"Our vision is to maintain and grow our reputation as a respected law firm delivering personalised legal services. We want to enjoy success and growth for our clients, our firm and our business partners."

London House International has appointed Rob Rogers as head of compliance. The company has already filed its application for full authorisation with the FCA and Mr Rogers was involved throughout that process.

He has been in the compliance industry for over 26 years and has seen a variety of regulators in that time including the SIB, LAUTRO and the FSA.

His roles have included heading large compliance departments for major financial institutions and guiding them through the process of changing from one regulator to another or from an unregulated industry to one that is firmly regulated.

Target Group has announced that it has gone live with its first acquisition of a secured loan portfolio. The acquisition has been carried out in partnership with Arrow Global.

Andrew Birkwood, chief investment officer at Arrow Global, said: "We are extremely pleased to be working with the team at Target on this project. The secured debt sale market provides good growth opportunities, and it is great to be able to keep pace with that by developing new initiatives and offerings."

The nationwide legal advocacy service of Kearns Solicitors has been acquired by the Link Financial Group, and has been, from 22 September, trading as Kearns Solicitors, an approved trading style of Kearns Legal Services Ltd. The new company, licensed and approved by the Solicitors Regulation Authority, will specialise in business-to-business services within the legal sector.

Selina Burdell, COO of Link Financial Group, said: "We are pleased to welcome Robert and the whole Kearns team to Link. We believe the Kearns proposition gives us a fantastic opportunity to expand our range of

outsourced legal services to clients through our new ABS."

Pancredit has appointed ATD Solutions as its data migration partner. Jonathan Newman, operation director at Pancredit, said: "In the last two years we have grown by more than a third each year, with increased demand for our intelligent lending systems, and our recent acquisition by Equiniti creates even more opportunities for us.

"We selected ATD to help us migrate our customers' data accurately, safely and efficiently from their existing systems onto our flagship product Core Pancredit."

Fleet Mortgages has announced its membership of lender trade association the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML).

Bob Young, chief executive officer of Fleet Mortgages, said: "We fully recognise the importance of a strong trade association for the lending community which is why we have made it a priority to join the CML.

"The CML has a proven track record in terms of influencing political debate and helping develop the UK mortgage market to ensure it is regulated proportionally and has a sustainable environment for responsible lending."

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