

NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF FCA – ANOTHER CREATURE OF GOVERNMENT

The Times' article today on the new Chief Executive of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) tells you everything you need to know in a single sentence:

“Mr Rathi has already proven himself a capable and trusted operative in government”.

If you exclude the three years spent as private secretary to Prime Ministers Blair and Brown (2005-2008), this suggests that he started work at the Treasury in 2000. In other words, Rathi has seen the full array of banking fraud and its subsequent cover up over the last two decades.

Importantly, Rathi was head of the Financial Stability unit at the Treasury, “overseeing a number of the UK’s financial stability interventions” during the 2008 banking crisis, **working directly with Andrew Bailey**. Both Bailey and Randell will have long identified Rathi as a safe pair of hands, who can be relied upon to adhere strictly to the official line.

After that, Rathi was the Director of the Financial Services Group, “representing the UK Government’s interests in the EU and internationally. In that role, he served as the UK representative on the EU Financial Services Committee and led a number of legislative negotiations”. Since 2014, he has been the international development director and later CEO of the London Stock Exchange.

Both Bailey and Randell will have insisted on Rathi getting the FCA job, given that Sunak may have been somewhat less aware of what they have all been covering up. Bailey and Randell will doubtless be able to impart their wisdom to the younger Rathi, whenever the occasion requires.

So, they will consider that they have covered all the bases:

FCA	Charles Randell, Chairman (62) Nikhil Rathi, Chief Executive – 40 (from October)
Bank of England	Andrew Bailey (61)
NCA	Lynne Owens (51)
HM Treasury	Sir Tom Scholar - 52 (permanent secretary since 2016) Rishi Sunak (40)
Treasury Select Committee	Mel Stride (59)