



Welcome to the first edition of the North and Mid Wales IRRV Association Newsletter which we intend to issue quarterly across the region. The introduction of the Newsletter is intended to share the latest developments in Revenues, Benefits and Valuation across Wales, it will also be an opportunity to share best practice and encourage colleagues from across the region to attend and participate in future Association events.

Don't miss our **Christmas Meeting on the 14th December** with one of the Countries leading experts in Data Protection & Freedom of Information Ibrahim Hassan (full details overleaf).

2016 Annual IRRV Performance Awards

Sue Plumb, President and Carwyn Jones, Vice President of the North and Mid Wales IRRV Association attended the 2016 Annual IRRV Performance Awards and Gala Dinner held in Telford's International Centre on 19th October.

Sue Plumb "The National Conference was excellent again this year and very well attended. It provided a great opportunity for delegates to engage with key speakers from Government departments and leading professional practitioners on current topical issues. It was also encouraging to see an increased and varied range of exhibitors at the conference".



'Latest Developments in Insolvency and Recovery of Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates'.

Our Association meeting on Friday 23rd September saw Hemal Mistry, Director and John Lee, Consultant from

HORSFIELDS
FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS
INSOLVENCY PRACTITIONERS

Horsfields deliver a thought provoking and in-depth session on the insolvency and its implications on local taxation. The session was well attended by delegates from across the region.

A copy of the presentation along with contact details for Hemal and John can be found at:

<http://irrassociations.org.uk/page.php?Aid=5&Waid=29&lid=1576>



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Data Protection 14/12/2016
Ibrahim Hasan
"Christmas Lunch"

Assoc. Meeting Feb 2017
Speaker T.B.C.

A.G.M. Apr 2017
Bod Erw, St Asaph

Wales Conference 16/06/2017
Metropole Hotel,
Llandrindod Wells

If you have any suggestions for future meetings; have an event/best practice you want to share or would like to contribute to future editions please contact:

Richard Mallon, Education Officer email: rm@jacobsenforcement.com





Benefit Cap – The Revised Benefit Cap has started to be implemented from 7 November 2016 across the United Kingdom, this places a lower cap on the amount of money single claimants or lone parents or large families can receive. In the majority of the UK this is £257.69 per week for a Single Claimant & £384.62 for a couple or lone parent, although there are some incomes which are disregarded as part of this calculation.

Universal Credit – The Rollout schedule Universal Credit from April 2017 to September 2018, has been released by the Department of Work and Pensions on 15 November, a link to this schedule is provided below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-transition-to-full-service>.

On the 21 November the government announced details of its consultation on the future of supported housing, this consultation runs for 12 weeks and ends on 13 February 2017. A link to this consultation is provided below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/funding-for-supported-housing>



Join us at our Christmas meeting on the 14th December where **one of the countries leading experts on Data Protection and Freedom of Information** will be delivering a session on the European changes in Data Protection and the impact this will have on all of us who have access to personal data.



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TRAINING



Ibrahim Hasan is a recognised expert on data protection, freedom of information and surveillance law. He writes for the Law Society Gazette as well as other professional journals and is an occasional guest lecturer on the University of Northumbria's LLM in Information Rights Law. Ibrahim was recently made an Honorary Fellow of the Information and Records Management Society.

The meeting will take place at The Bod Erw in St Asaph from 11am and is also open to colleagues working outside of Revenues, Benefits and Valuation who have a particular interest in Data Protection.

The session is being delivered for FREE by the Association. A 3 Course Christmas Lunch will be served after the session - IRRV Members £5, Non-IRRV members £10. To register your attendance please contact Matthew Evans, Association Secretary on matthew.evans@wrexham.gov.uk by 8th December.

Meet the North & Mid IRRV Wales Executive: Over the coming months the newsletter will introduce members of the Executive and share with you a little bit about them, why they joined the IRRV and how being a member has helped shape their career. First up.....



Susan Plumb
President

Susan Plumb is the Local Taxation Manager for Conwy County Borough Council and has 17 years' experience in Local Government within the Revenues and Benefits division.

Susan has successfully implemented the largest geographical Business Improvement District in the U.K within Conwy and has recently introduced an in-house Enforcement Team. Susan is fully IRRV qualified and firmly believes that the knowledge and skills attained in the Technician, Diploma and Honours qualifications have assisted greatly in the advancement of her career, in both her 11 year role as Court Officer for Conwy and in her current Managerial position.

Susan has additionally achieved an MSc in Entrepreneurial Leadership and takes pride in encouraging her team to think more innovatively within the constraint of budget control to provide excellent customer service.

Carwyn has worked as a revenues practitioner for over 12 years, working for Flintshire County Council he has progressed from being a Revenues Assistant to now being a Team Manager in the Revenues service responsible for Council Tax and Business Rates further recovery, Sundry Debtors and also the cash collection section.

He has dealt with many projects varying from setting up of the Dip and Workflow system to now setting up and managing the successful in-house Debt Enforcement team within Flintshire. Having a Revenues background has allowed Carwyn to progress on the recovery of debts and expand the in-house Enforcement service to increase collection rates for Flintshire whilst maintaining a high level of customer service.



Carwyn Jones
Vice President