



## Wales Conference 2017.....

Following up from the success of last years Conference Jacobs have kindly agreed to again sponsor this years event which will be held on **Friday 16th June at The Metropole Hotel in Llandrindodd-Wells.**

Alyn Lewis, Sale Director at Jacobs "Jacobs are proud to continue to show our support for Local Authorities across Wales and welcome the opportunity to sponsor this years conference for a second consecutive year. I look forward to catching up with our Clients and having the opportunity to showcase the services Jacobs can provide to prospective Clients from across Wales."

With topical speakers due to deliver sessions at this years Conference around the future of local government in Wales it's certainly not a Conference you can afford to miss!!!

Further information will be available shortly but please make sure you make a note of the date in your diaries.

# JACOBS



**ACT NOW**  
TRAINING

Our Christmas Association meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016 saw Ibrahim Hasan from Act Now Training deliver an excellent session on the forthcoming changes in Data Protection.

Ibrahim's expert and insightful delivery of the session was greatly received by all who attended with many now going away to forward plan for the imminent changes brought about by the New General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Some of the key points from the session: GDPR replaces DPA 1998 from 25th May 2018; increased fines (up to €20 million); Subject Access Requests will be Free under new Regs; Data Subjects have the "right to be forgotten"; Data Protection statements should be clear/unambiguous/opt in.

For further information from the session copies of Ibrahim's presentation can be found at: <http://irrvassociations.org.uk/page.php?Aid=5&Waid=29&lid=1586>

### NDR Revaluation 2017-18:

At our October meeting Liz Thomas, Appeals Team Leader, VOA delivered a topical session on Revaluation, providing an update on the work the VOA has completed so far in delivering the new non-domestic rates rating list and giving an insight into the work now underway in response to appeals. A copy of Liz's presentation can be found at: <http://irrvassociations.org.uk/page.php?Aid=5&Waid=29&lid=1607>



### EXAM SUCCESS

A massive well done to both:

Anna Kime, Benefits Team Manager  
and Vicki Hankin, Revenues Team  
Manager, both of Flintshire County  
Council and Members of the North & Mid Wales  
IRRV Executive on successfully passing their IRRV  
Diploma exams.



### DATES FOR THE DIARY

**A.G.M.** **27/04/2017**  
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](mailto:rm@jacobsenforcement.com)

RBI is replacing the Fraud and Error Reduction Incentive Scheme (FERIS) for 2017/18.

**The main differences between FERIS and RBI are shown below:**

- All available funding will be made as an up-front payment to LAs. There will be no baselines and thresholds which LAs need to meet to qualify for additional incentive payments.
- DWP are now asking LAs to use the additional funding to focus purely on combating incorrect earnings and use available funding to process as many Optional Real Time Information (RTI) referrals as possible each month. Other business as usual F&E activity should continue as normal, such as reviewing Earned Income cases which have not been reviewed in the last 12 months, reviewing Self Employed cases and using the new Real Time Information Service User Interface following the national roll out (WURTI).
- DWP will monitor the volume of referrals processed, cases reviewed and the outcomes through SHBE for each authority. There will be no requirement to submit an action plan to DWP to apply for funding. Once RBI is launched you will simply need to either **opt-in** or **opt-out**. As RBI focuses on earnings cases, funding will be apportioned across LAs based on the earnings caseload. The amount of funding available under this initiative will be communicated when RBI is launched and may be different to the previous FERIS funding for 2016/17.

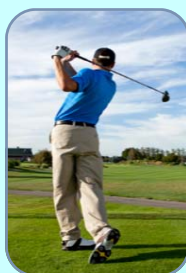
This has not officially been launched but is expected before the end of March 2017 .

## BENEFIT UPDATE

### North & Mid Wales IRRV Association Annual Golf Competition

This year will see the 20th anniversary of the North & Mid Wales Golf Competition which will be held on Friday 7 July 2017 at Abergele Golf Club .

As it is such a special occasion we are trying to get as many people who have played in the competition over the years to play again this year and make it a very special occasion. Anyone who has played before and would be interested in playing again please email Phil Round, Executive Member on: philrhyl@aol.com



We are looking for enthusiastic new members to join our Executive.

There are a number of positions we are looking to appoint to at the Associations AGM in April including the position of Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Members.



**WE WANT YOU!**

Anyone who is interested can speak to a Member of the Executive for more information or can register their interest by attending the AGM on 27th April 2017 at 10am at Bod Erw Hotel, St Asaph.

**Meet the North & Mid IRRV Wales Executive:** In this edition of our newsletter two more serving members of the Executive, Richard and Vicki, will share with you a little bit about themselves and how being a member has helped shape their career.



Richard Mallon  
IRRV Tech  
Education Officer

Having previously worked within Revenue Services at Flintshire County Council for 19 years progressing from Modern Trainee to Revenues Team Leader where I managed Council Tax, Business Rates, Sundry Debt and Cash Collection Services I made the bold decision to leave Local Government and join the Private Sector.

In July 2017 I began my new journey joining Jacobs, one of the countries leading Enforcement Agents, in the role of Procurement Officer in our Business Development Team responsible for preparing tender bids and identifying new business opportunities.

Early on in my career I was someone who was quite sceptical of IRRV qualifications and the benefits they could have on my career. However having served on the Executive for 4 years and completed the Technician qualification I now appreciate the opportunities the IRRV (through studies and the Executive) has created for me and would encourage others to get involved .

I have worked within the field of Revenues and Benefits in Flintshire County Council for almost 20 years. I started as an administration assistant in Housing Benefits in 1997 and worked my way up to team leader in 2013.

I have just passed my IRRV diploma which I started by sitting my first exams in June 2015. I became a member of the IRRV executive just after starting my studies, as I felt that this would help with networking with other local authorities and help to broaden my knowledge.

Due to a recent restructure of management levels within Flintshire I took the opportunity to move into Revenues as Team Manager of Council Tax and Business Rates in September 2016, which was a move that even surprised me as much as anyone else! I am relishing the challenge of learning new skills and broadening my experience for the future.



Vicki Hankin  
Executive Member