

Spreadsheet

CIPFA.ORG | NEWS FOR MEMBERS AND STUDENTS

FEBRUARY 2013



Annual conference 2013

**beyond
austerity**

London, 9–11 July

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CIPFA

Message from the President



Well, they say that the year of the CIPFA President is a full and eventful one and, so far, that has certainly been my experience.

In October I attended the International Federation of Accountants Conference and Annual Meeting in Cape Town. A major topic on the agenda was integrated reporting and this attracted particular interest from delegates – it is already mandatory in South Africa where, in large part, accountants have taken a lead role in its development. Perhaps the highlight of the Annual Meeting, for me, was the decision to award full IFAC membership to the Association of Accounting Technicians.

Whilst on the subject of Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies, (CCAB) which I am chairing during my

presidential year. I was able to preside over a series of meetings around the country at which representatives of the International Integrated Reporting Council explained why integrated reporting should be adopted in both the public and private (and, possibly the third) sectors. An excellent spread of CCAB members attended and the concept was generally well received.

Over the last few months I have also been privileged to attend a whole variety of seminars, conferences, AGMs and, of course, lunches and dinners.

There have been many memorable regional events including visits to the North East, Northern Ireland, North West, Yorkshire and Humber and the European Group in Brussels.

I know there are many more to come but thank you, one and all, for organising such stimulating and engaging topics at your meetings. Tackling austerity, not surprisingly, has been a common theme. Thank you for your warm and hospitable welcomes to me (and in many cases, my wife, Christine).

In my travels I have been struck by the remarkable spirit, enthusiasm and commitment amongst the grass roots membership in what are, we

know, very difficult times. There is much evidence that CIPFA members are, encouragingly, in the vanguard driving change through many imaginative and innovative solutions.

The year ahead will be another challenging one for our members and CIPFA council has continued to grapple with the impact on all sectors of the Government's austerity measures. It has been very helpful to me to hear at first hand your thoughts, ideas, concerns and anxieties about the future and I can say with some confidence the council, and indeed Robert Street staff, are well grounded in trying to address these.

I hope to meet many more members and students during my remaining months in office.

Sir Tony Redmond, President

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We welcome your feedback on Spreadsheet. Please send your comments and suggestions for future articles to danielle.holme@cipfa.org

Keeping up with CIPFA

You can now join us on LinkedIn, follow CIPFA on Twitter at twitter.com/cipfa, or 'like' us on Facebook. Links are provided on the CIPFA website.



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Technical and policy round-up

New internal audit standards launched

The newly established Public Sector Internal Audit Standards Board has now released the UK Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS).

The new standards, based on the mandatory elements of the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF), are intended to promote further improvement in the professionalism, quality, consistency and effectiveness of internal audit across the public sector.

The standards were consulted on and reaffirm the importance of robust, independent and objective internal audit arrangements to provide senior management with the key assurances

‘Collaboration between the IIA and CIPFA demonstrates the commitment of both organisations to work together to develop the internal auditing profession in the public sector’

**Dr. Ian Peters, Chief Executive,
Institute of Internal Auditors**

they need to support them, both in managing the organisation, and in producing the Annual Governance Statement.

The PSIAS, combined with the [Local Government Application Note](#), due to be published in April 2013, are considered to be the proper practices for local authorities in the UK.

[Download the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards](#). Please address all associated queries to Keeley Lund at keeley.lund@cipfa.org.

New internal audit training from CIPFA and IIA

The launch of the new internal audit standards specifically for the public sector highlights the importance of internal audit in the public sector and how distinct it is from the private sector. CIPFA has been jointly working with the IIA since May 2012 to champion internal audit and develop new initiatives, the latest is the launch [of two new education awards](#).

The awards – the IIA/CIPFA Award in Governance and Risk Management and the IIA/CIPFA Award in Audit and Assurance in a Changing Environment – are taught by IIA specialist trainers with the content jointly designed by CIPFA and IIA. They will develop skills in these specialist areas for those already working in, or new to, internal audit. Two-day workshops will be taking place, in London and York, in April and November.

The adoption of International Public Sector Accountancy standards in Europe

Eurostat, the statistics directorate of the European Union, is due to publish a report assessing the suitability of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) for member states, this month (February).

Eurostat has already published a [summary of responses](#) to the [consultation](#) with the majority of respondents accepting the importance of high-quality accrual data to strong public financial management.

CIPFA strongly supports IPSAS. One reason for this is that accrual data is more transparent providing a more accurate and comprehensive picture of future liabilities. This helps to reduce the chance of corruption in government since a lack of transparency enables and encourages profligate behaviour.

CIPFA also supports IPSAS for the essential global comparability that common standards facilitate. National and local government bonds comprise a significant proportion of the trades in global capital markets. Comparable accrual reports are necessary to understand fully governments' relative financial situations and risk exposures.

Keep an eye on the Eurostat website for the release of the report at: epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu.

A new certificate launched to support the adoption of IPSAS

As Europe continues the discussion on the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs), CIPFA has launched a new global certificate – the [Certificate in International Public Sector Accounting Standards \(Cert IPSAS\)](#).

The certificate is ideal for anyone who needs to understand the standards and their application. It is assessed online and has distance learning as well as classroom and virtual learning options, available for individuals and organisations. So the certificate is a flexible and cost efficient way to gain the skills needed to demonstrate credibility and authority in IPSAS.

Sir Harry Page Merit Award 2013 – now open for nominations

Nominations are invited, from any part of the public services, for this prestigious CIPFA Award.

CIPFA is keen to recognise outstanding pieces of work or initiatives, focused on a particular technical matter within the field of public service accounting and financial management.

More details are available from CIPFA's Awards page: www.cipfa.org/About-CIPFA/Awards.

Alternatively please email julian.smith@cipfa.org to request your copy of the Award information brochure and nomination form. The closing date for nominations for this year's Award is: 10 May 2013.



Members of the HM Treasury's Whole of Government Accounts team accepting last year's Sir Harry Page Award

Cliff Nicholson Award 2013 – nominate by 8 March

Nominate now for this prestigious award. The Cliff Nicholson Award recognises innovation and excellence in public service audit. It is an opportunity for audit teams to demonstrate the valuable contribution audit can make, which is highly important with the current focus on better governance and utilising resources efficiently.

Entries will be judged by the Chair and members of CIPFA's Audit Panel.

Closing date: Friday 8 March 2013

For more information, and to make your nomination, visit: www.cipfa.org/About-CIPFA/Awards.

Guide to alternative service provision – out now

CIPFA has released The Commissioning Joint Committee Guide to Alternative Bases of Service. This new guide looks at

alternative vehicles for commissioning products and services to help assist authorities who have never been under so much pressure to find alternatives, and never had such a variety of providers to choose from.

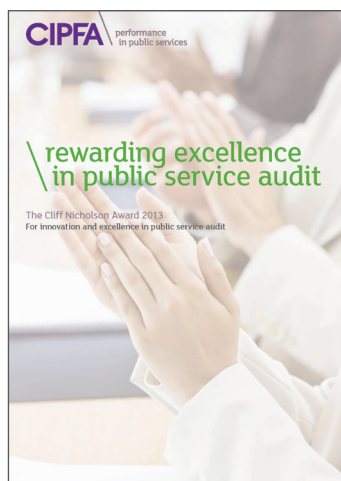
This guide is designed for two groups:

decision-makers – who decide, often against the clock, which if any of these alternatives to take up.

practitioners – who make cases for the best alternatives, make them work when they are adopted, and pick up the pieces if they go wrong.

The guide looks in particular at:

- vehicles for delivering integrated services
- big contracts for small service providers
- contracts whose end users act also as client officers
- working through joint ventures



- service provision by social enterprises, community groups or neighbourhood councils
- service provision funded by grants.

Find out more at:

www.cipfa.org/CJC-GuidetoAlternativeBasesofServiceProvision.

Technical and Policy: get involved

Join one of CIPFA's boards or panels to help shape the future of public finance:

YOUR CODE BOARD NEEDS YOU: HELP DEVELOP LOCAL AUTHORITY ACCOUNTING

The CIPFA/LASAAC (Local Authority Scotland Accounts Advisory Committee) Board is responsible for the development of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK. It currently has two vacancies. Members of the board will have the opportunity to shape the development of the code, playing a key role in local authority accounting.

The vacancies are:

- One representing Welsh unitary local authority practitioners, and
- One representing local authority practitioners in county councils, unitary authorities, metropolitan district councils London borough councils in England.

CIPFA/LASAAC usually meets three times a year, alternating between London and Edinburgh. Download the [Terms of Reference for the Board](#) are available.

As well as attending meetings, CIPFA/LASAAC members are expected to review papers including drafts of sections of the Code circulated between meetings. Board members may also be asked to support events in their area, designed to promote the work of CIPFA/LASAAC.

If you are interested, further details are available on the [CIPFA/LASAAC website](#).

INFLUENCE STANDARD SETTING THROUGH CIPFA'S AASP

CIPFA's Accounting and Auditing Standards Panel (AASP) is currently looking to increase its membership, and would welcome applications from CIPFA members with an interest in standard setting.

AASP develops institute responses to international and UK consultations, and provides other thought leadership on financial reporting and auditing matters. While CIPFA/LASAAC develops the local government code, AASP helps to fulfil CIPFA's important role in influencing the work of other standard setters in the wider public and private sectors.

AASP meets in London three times a year, and attendance through teleconference can be arranged. A significant volume of consultation responses are also progressed between meetings by email.

Details of AASP's work are provided on the [AASP web pages](#), and background documents can also be obtained from the Panel Secretary [Steven Cain](#). Applications should be emailed to Steven by 31 March 2013.

HOUSING PANEL SEEKS PANEL MEMBER FROM WALES

CIPFA's Housing Panel – which focuses on social landlord-related finance and policy issues, whether local authority or housing association – has a vacancy for a panel member from Wales.

Meetings are usually three times a year (teleconference attendance can be arranged), with some work also carried out by email.

If you are interested, please send a couple of paragraphs outlining your current responsibilities and areas of interest to:

Lesley Lodge, Policy & Technical, 1st Floor, CIPFA, 3 Robert Street, London WC2N 6RL or E: lesley.lodge@cipfa.org.

AUDIT PANEL SEEKS CHAIR

The Audit Panel is looking for a new Chair to maintain the momentum of its recent success, such as contributing to the publication of the Local Government Application Note and the excellent 2012 Audit Conference.

The panel promotes both external and internal audit in public services, particularly in the UK local government, where the Institute has formal internal audit standard-setting responsibilities.

We are looking for an outstanding member of the audit community to lead the panel and provide a focus for its work across the public services, in which CIPFA members work as auditors.

Candidates will need to demonstrate a record of success in internal or external audit and an informed understanding of the audit profession. Above all they must demonstrate proven leadership skills. More information can be found on the [Audit Panel website](#).

CIPFA CHARITIES & SOCIAL ENTERPRISES PANEL LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

The panel is looking for new members interested in shaping the ever-evolving charities and social enterprises sector, and how it delivers public services.

A wide range of charities and social enterprises are involved in delivering public services and the number is set to increase. Examples include: leisure trusts, employee led mutuals in health and social care and academies.

If you are interested in joining the panel, or want to discuss the idea further, please contact John Maddocks at john.maddocks@cipfa.org.

Governance and institute matters

Council elections: Nominations are in

Members across the Institute sent their nominations for the 11 seats up for election in 2013 for the Institute Council (5 for local government, 1 for health, 1 for statutory external audit, and 4 others); regional representatives; and representatives for the AAT council earlier this month.

Voting will begin in April, and members will again be able to use either e-voting



in these elections or conventional postal voting. Members who have registered an email address with CIPFA (and have not opted out of receiving electronic notices) will be sent ballot details and candidate profiles by email, and Members who do not have a registered email address (or who have opted out of receiving notices electronically) will be sent the details by post. So watch out for these details either by email/in the post.

Over 140 United Nations staff to take CIPFA qualification

More than 140 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) staff have enrolled to start studying with CIPFA. Just over 100 start studying in February for the Certificate in International Public Financial Management – the first qualification in the integrated suite of qualifications leading to CPFA status – and 40 will study for the next stage the Diploma in International Public Financial Management qualification.

The UNDP staff will be taught by Kaplan Financial using the Live Online system for web based delivery. The plan is to add certificate courses and materials in French and Spanish, as well as English, later in the year. The new CIPFA scheme for UNDP replaces a scheme previously operated by ACCA.

Alan Edwards, CIPFA International Director, said: "It is fantastic news that nearly 150 UNDP staff across the world will be studying CIPFA's new international qualifications. Adding them to a rapidly growing number of existing international CIPFA students, means we can now be seen as a global provider of public financial management qualifications."

Reminders

ANNUAL MEMBERS' STATEMENT

CIPFA qualified members should have submitted their Annual Members' Statements by 31 January 2013. If you have not yet submitted your Members' Statement you must do so immediately.

All designated CPFA's are required to complete the Members' Statement annually as their declaration that they have participated in CIPFA's Continuing Development scheme in 2012, or have been granted exemption. It is also confirmation as to whether you need to hold a CIPFA Practising Certificate or not.

The Annual Members' Statement can be accessed via your 'My CIPFA' area in the CIPFA website at www.cipfa.org.

If you have not already registered on the website to create your 'My CIPFA' account please do so. You will need your CIPFA Contact Reference Number which was included in the email communication sent to you in November regarding renewal of your membership. If you need a reminder of this please contact membership@cipfa.org.

RENEWAL OF CIPFA MEMBERSHIP

Renewal of membership fees became due on 1 January 2013.

Renewals invoices are also located in 'My CIPFA' under 'My Purchases', where you can pay securely by credit or debit card receiving an instant receipt; or you can print off your invoice to pass to your employer if they pay your membership on your behalf.

Full details of how to pay your membership fee, including by direct debit, can be found on the website at www.cipfa.org/Membership/Fees-and-Subscriptions/How-to-Pay.

We are aware that some members may have experienced an access issue when the renewal communication was sent. Please accept our apologies for this, the problem has been corrected.

If you need any assistance or have any queries about accessing your My CIPFA account, completing your Members' Statement or paying your membership fee please contact the membership team on T: 020 3117 1880 or E: membership@cipfa.org.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome goes out to our newest members from November and December as follows:

- Amrita Bhatt
- Robert Simon Bowmaker, Gateshead Council
- James Edward Buttery, Kirklees Council
- Lewis Luwisi Chingwaru, Ashfield District Council
- Christopher Lewis, Audit Scotland
- Lisa Longhurst, Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust
- Rachael Parkes, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
- James Postle, Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
- Carolyn Ruth, Prince Coventry City Council
- Shireen Quayum, Hillingdon London Borough Council

May we wish you a long and prosperous career. Don't forget that, as long as you are a member you may use your designatory letters, CPFA and term yourself a Chartered Public Finance Accountant.

If you've recently completed all elements of the Professional Qualification, and been informed you are eligible to apply for membership, you can still apply for membership at our next election on 7 March.

If you have any questions about the process please contact the membership team at membership@cipfa.org.

CIPFA in the news

The Institute regularly features in the news, with spokespeople commenting on, and providing expert advice, on the latest public finance issues. We report back on some of our media coverage since the last edition of Spreadsheet.

CIPFA published its annual libraries survey, in December, which received national coverage (for instance in the [Daily Telegraph](#)). However, the majority of coverage was [local](#) or [regional](#). A few days later the Department for Culture Media and Sport published the [library comparative profiles](#) it had commissioned CIPFA to undertake.

In mid-December the Audit Commission published a report which found improvements in the financial reporting of local authorities. CIPFA's Paul Mason welcomed the conclusions in [Accountancy Age](#).

Gill Kelly, Associate Director of CIPFA Recruitment Services, was busy at the end of last year dispensing advice on what public sector finance professionals need to do to advance their careers (in [Government Opportunities](#) and [HR Magazine](#)).

Just before Christmas the Department for Communities and Local Government published the [local government finance settlement](#). Steve Freer warned that 2013/14 will not be an easy year for councils.

After some criticism of local authorities for increasing the amount they keep as [reserves](#), Steve Freer stepped in to try to bring some clarity to the issue.



One of CIPFA's trainee schemes received coverage in [The Guardian](#) because of its innovative cooperative training model bringing public service organisations across Nottinghamshire together.

In January the Draft Local Audit Bill was published and CIPFA raised concerns in [Accountancy Live](#).

Latest discounts for CIPFA members

CIPFA members can take advantage of discounts on eye care, flowers and vehicle servicing and MOTs and much more through CIPFA Rewards.

VISION EXPRESS – DISCOUNTED EYE CARE

There are several offers available including a free eye test including free digital retinal photography (when spending over £50) and designer 2 for 1 glasses*.

[View more information and download your personal voucher.](#)

FLOWERS DIRECT

CIPFA members have access to an amazing 15% discount. Flowers Direct offer beautiful flowers and gifts, delivered directly to the door of your loved one.

[View more information.](#)
(quote CIPFA15 at checkout)

VEHICLE SERVICING MANAGER – DISCOUNTED VEHICLE SERVICING AND MOTS

VSM uses the UK's largest network of independent garages to deliver average savings of 30%, on all car servicing and repairs. You can also save 20% on the cost of your next MOT. By booking your vehicle service and MOT together, the MOT discount will increase to 33%.

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or call 0871 871 9840
(quote code PH006)

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Steve Crackett

Steve Crackett's year of charity cycling

CIPFA's Central Services Manager, Steve Crackett undertook a personal challenge to cycle 2012 miles, during 2012 to raise £2,012, after being inspired by fundraising efforts of Phil Packer MBE, a former British soldier who suffered severe spinal cord injuries whilst on active service in Iraq.

After 70 separate bike rides and 125 hours in the saddle, mainly around Kent, but with trips to Bergues in

France and De Panne in Belgium, he finally completed this feat at the end of November. Perhaps the most challenging ride was his 120 mile round trip from his home in Ashford into the CIPFA Robert Street office in central London.

Thanks to the generosity of CIPFA colleagues and associates, friends and family, he raised almost £2,400.00. He intends to split the money between six charities: Alzheimer's Research UK, Macmillan Cancer Support, Motor Neurone Disease Association, The Rainbow Trust, The Prince's Trust and Save the Children, all of which, for various reasons, he has an affinity with.

Further details of his exploits can be found at steve2012cycle.blogspot.co.uk. You can still donate to his charities (as he hasn't sent the cheques yet). Please contact him at steve.crackett@cipfa.org.



Regions

CIPFA in the North East Annual Conference

After the success of their first annual conference last November, CIPFA in the North East returned to The Sage in Gateshead on 23 November 2012 for their second conference. Over 70 delegates attended, and the conference featured high profile speakers and leading figures from the health service, local government, fire service and the private sector, and they didn't disappoint.

Speakers included The Rt Honourable Alan Milburn (via video link); Sir Tony Redmond, President of CIPFA; Roger Latham Visiting Lecturer at Nottingham Trent University (and a past President of CIPFA); John Scott (Chief Risk Officer,

Zurich Global Corporate); Ian Renwick (Chief Executive, Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust); Kevin Lavery (Chief Executive Cornwall County Council); and Susan Johnson (Chief Executive County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service).

They outlined local, national and global risks and the economic reality that impacts on, and drives their services. A panel session also took place.

Read the full write up online by Jane Cuthbertson, at: www.cipfa.org/North-East-Annual-Conference.



Susan Johnson (Chief Executive, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service) speaking at the North East Annual Conference

CIPFA European Group Annual Seminar 2013

The CIPFA European Group Annual Seminar and members' meeting 2012 took place on 17 January 2013 at the Federation of European Accountants (FEE) Conference Centre in Brussels, Belgium. The seminar opened with a welcome from Sir Tony Redmond, President of CIPFA, and André Killesse, the FEE President.

Steve Freer, CIPFA Chief Executive, spoke about making better public financial management happen. John Stanford, Deputy Technical Director of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board, gave his personal opinion on work on accruals accounting in the EU and the challenges ahead. Manfred Kraff, Accountant of the European Commission, spoke about managing their accounts.

Adrian Pulham, CIPFA Education and Membership Director, and Giles Orr, Head of CIPFA Education and Training Centre,



Pictured Top to Bottom
John Dwight (Wales Audit Office), Chris Tidswell (Head of CIPFA Wales), Ken Finch (Conwy County Borough Council), Chris Taylor (Secretary), Gill Lewis (Vice President), Rhian Evans (Treasurer) and Steve O'Donoghue (President).

highlighted CIPFA's new international public financial management (PFM) qualifications (see p2).

At the general meeting the group's presidency passed from Leslie Milne to Ross Walton. The new President and members paid fulsome tribute to Leslie's leadership for the last 20 years.

Find out more about the seminar at: www.cipfa.org/EuropeAGM.

Cipfa Cymru*Wales Branch update

BRANCH BUSINESS PLANNING

The Cymru Wales Branch Executive held a business planning meeting in November at Bangor University Management Centre (attendees are pictured).

The branch, which was formed in 2011, had adopted its principal vision to build strong foundations for the two year term of the initial executive. A new two year executive will be established in 2013 following the March AGM. In readiness for this transition, members

of the existing executive considered the business planning vision for 2013 and identified priorities that should form the branch's business plan for the year, as follows:

- Establishing a full and active executive.
- Targeting attention on the directors of finance community and Chief Accountants Group.
- Strengthening communications with members.
- Engaging Student representatives.
- Delivering a CPD programme.
- Engaging Employers.

BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The branch AGM is coming up on 15 March 2013 at Ty Hywel, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay.

Join CIPFA colleagues from across Wales for a topical CPD update and the Cymru-Wales Branch AGM. There will be sessions on The Silk Commission and personal resilience in these challenging times and a presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts and bestowing of volunteer awards.

This year's AGM will involve the election of branch officers for the next two years, so we'd like to see as many members as possible.

Book your free place at: www.cipfa.org/CIPFACymruWalesAGM, or contact Steven O'Donoghue for further information.

E: steven.o'donoghue@wales.gov.uk.

CIPFA South East new members evening

Twenty brand new CIPFA members attended an event, at Robert Street on 21 November 2012, to receive their membership certificates from CIPFA president Sir Tony Redmond and to be welcomed to the South East region by regional president, John Thornton. Accompanied by family and friends they celebrated their achievement with CIPFA and CIPFA Education and Training Centre staff and South East region volunteers.



Award winners

The president congratulated them all on their success, and paid tribute to the support given by families and friends during their years of study. He spoke of the career opportunities which lay ahead and the opportunities available thanks to a widely recognised professional qualification.

In welcoming the new members to the region, John Thornton referred to the support available through regional activities and encouraged them to take part and to join the ranks of volunteers.

See more pictures from the event at: www.flickr.com/photos/cipfasoutheast/sets/72157632111300253/.

... new member's viewpoint

Gareth Robinson explains what receiving his membership certificate meant to him.

For many in the audience, the event represented the beginning of their careers, but for me, it was a brand new start. I had significant work experience but felt I was missing something that would allow me to demonstrate my capabilities to the fullest extent.

I had a policy background and I wanted to understand how core public services could not only survive but thrive in the new world of austerity, because they are so important to all of us. Understanding

the financial side of things matters incredibly and CIPFA, as the public sector accountancy body, was the ticket for me.

CIPFA's qualification, as John Thornton so elegantly explained, is a passport to new career destinations. Like many of my colleagues, I joined the public sector to make a difference. Membership in CIPFA offers a route to a world of interesting work, impacting on the world in which we live, far beyond a mere pay cheque. However, I must admit, it has led to a comfortable lifestyle as well.

The room was full of people from all walks of life and at different stages in their careers all happy to be there, celebrating together. New members were proudly but nervously walking up to Sir Tony to shake his hand, face the cameras and receive the all-important document. It was a very exciting moment as the future was beginning to stretch out before us.



Gareth Robinson receiving his certificate

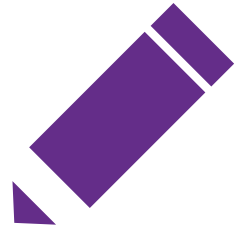
Students

Exam results December 2012

The overall pass rate for the Professional Qualification (PQ) December exams rose to 72% compared with 70% for the June 2012 exams. Notable improvements included the results for Public Sector Financial Reporting which increased from a pass rate of 51% to 71%, and Financial Reporting results which increased from a 69% pass rate to 75%.

CIPFA Education and Membership Director, Adrian Pulham said: "I would like to offer my congratulations to all the students for their hard work. This is the second set of results from our

new Professional Qualification syllabus and it is encouraging that overall results are improving. It is clear that the qualification continues to offer those working in public finance a brilliant opportunity to advance their careers."



'It is encouraging that overall results are improving. It is clear that the qualification continues to offer those working in public finance a brilliant opportunity to advance their careers.'

Adrian Pulham, CIPFA Education and Membership Director

Updated PQ syllabus for 2013

Changes to our PQ syllabuses have been published on our website, together with a summary of the main changes made.

As the syllabus was substantially revised last year the changes being made for 2013 are generally quite minor. They primarily focus on updates to modules such as Public Sector Financial Reporting, Financial Reporting, Public Finance and Taxation, and Governance, Public Policy and Ethics to reflect 'real world' changes in these areas and to achieve greater focus on ethics.

In addition, the exam rubric for the Public Finance and Taxation module is changing in 2013 and a revised specimen paper has been published to reflect this change.

Find out more about the changes at: www.cipfa.org/Training-and-Qualifications/Current-students/Syllabuses

Practical Experience Portfolio (PEP) now in operation

The PEP, CIPFA's new workplace experience scheme replacing the Initial Professional Development Scheme (IPDS), is now in operation and a lot of positive feedback has been received from students and employers.

In addition to the log of relevant work experience, portfolios are required to include content on three activities, with a strong focus on ethics (a key new development).

The PEP guide was published last October and portfolio submissions from exam-qualified students can now be accepted for review at any point. Also, in conjunction with regional student societies and the National Students Forum, we are planning some events on PEP, and we plan to schedule a PEP webinar over the coming months.

Any students who had started IPDS and need to transfer to the PEP scheme are

encouraged to read through the PEP guide and the associated transition guidance (available at: www.cipfa.org/Training-and-Qualifications/Current-students/PEP) and contact Student Support (studentsupport@cipfa.org) if there are any queries about completing and submitting the portfolio.

Courses for June 2013 exams

The next semester of courses start now so take a look at the latest course dates in downloadable PDFs from [CIPFA Education and Training Centre \(CETC\)](http://www.cipfa.org/Training-and-Qualifications/Current-students/CETC) and [Kaplan](http://www.kaplan.co.uk).

Courses include workbooks, learning materials and excellent support from tutors to give you the best chance of success in the exams. For further information email cetcc@cipfa.org or cipfaliveonline@kaplan.co.uk.

Changes to 2013 examination and exemption fees

After a number of years of not increasing examination fees, this year our examination fees will be changing. For the June 2013 diet the Professional Certificate and Professional Diploma examinations will cost £100 each. The fees for the Strategic stage examinations and Practical Experience Portfolio review will remain at £200 each.

Exemption fees for the Professional Certificate and Professional Diploma examinations will also cost £100 this year; exemptions for the half modules Public Finance or Taxation will cost £50.

Tom Sowerby Award 2013

Do you have a favourite lecturer, course tutor or knows someone who has provided an outstanding service to CIPFA students? If the answer is yes, now is your chance to nominate them for the prestigious Tom Sowerby award.

Designed to recognise excellence in education and to reward those who have gone the extra mile for CIPFA students, a Tom Sowerby award nomination is the perfect way for you to say thank you.

Closing date: Friday 22 March 2013

For more information, and to make your nomination, visit: www.cipfa.org/sowerby.

New graduate scheme launched in East Midlands

Public services across Nottinghamshire are working together after establishing a new cooperative recruitment and training model. The Chief Finance Officers of the county council, district councils, Nottingham police authority and Nottinghamshire fire and rescue services are all taking part in this flexible and cost saving initiative. The organisations are each contributing

funding to the training of a pool of finance graduates who will study CIPFA and move between each body during their training. In addition to improving public sector efficiencies this also means that the trainees in the scheme get valuable experience in a variety of different public sector bodies.

Paul Simpson, Director of Finance & Procurement at Nottinghamshire County Council, said: "This is a fantastic arrangement for everyone involved and shows what can be achieved by local partners working together to deliver a shared goal."

To discuss your trainee recruitment needs contact employers@cipfa.org.

Other student news

We are working to improve the way we communicate with students and would like to hear your thoughts on how we can make things better for you.

One element of this, as part of the new website, is that we now have a Student News web page at www.cipfa.org/StudentNews where we publish news, updates and articles of interest.

We are also working on adding new features to the website, including a new discussion forum and an integrated online purchase process.

Look out for further information on new developments. In the meantime, if you haven't already done so please

register for the website at www.cipfa.org/Register to manage all your contact details, access past exam papers and take advantage any services your organisation subscribes to.

A newly rejuvenated CIPFA Midlands Student Society update

The CIPFA Midlands student society (CMSS) looks back at a busy 2012.

A highlight of the summer was the Annual Dinner, attended by students, members and Presidents. Notable guests included CIPFA President Sir Tony Redmond and his wife, who were extremely supportive and provided excellent insights into public sector life.

An IPDS session was combined with the AGM in September. CIPFA's Brett Crabtree explained the new personal experience portfolio (PEP), and Peter Shakespear, CMSS member, and recently qualified CIPFA member, gave a lively account of approaching the IPDS from a student perspective.

In November, Ian Bowler, lecturer and Tom Sowerby award 2012 winner, gave CIPFA students from across the Midlands some exam hints and tips. Rounding off a jam-packed Autumn Schedule, CIPFA's Steve Daniels spoke at a PEP changes event.

There are more exciting events to come for Midlands students, including the Annual Dinner in July 2013.



Tony Redmond with attendees at the Annual Dinner

GET INVOLVED WITH CMSS

Email cmss@cipfa.org

Facebook CIPFA Midlands Student Society

Twitter @CIPFAMidlandsSS

Events

New Training Directory 2013 available

CIPFA's 2013 training and development directory – containing over 170 courses, conferences, and more... – is now available to download. View our skills-enhancing and CPD-contributing courses, read about how in-house training can reduce your organisation's training spend, and view our trainers top tips. Download for free at www.cipfa.org/training.

You can also search for our courses at: www.cipfa.org/events.



Conferences

CIPFA'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2013 – BEYOND AUSTERITY

9–11 July

Finance and public service leaders need to rethink, refocus and reinvent traditional approaches. At this pivotal moment, CIPFA's annual conference will be taking a close look at the policies required for the future and the strategies which need to be put in place today to ensure a sustainable next generation.

Book your place now, to take advantage of early bird discounts.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

6 March, London

This conference is dedicated to real time issues facing treasury managers; the economy, risk management based solutions to borrowing and enhanced investment returns, and managing elected member's appetite for risk.

T: 0207 543 5854

E: alana.burnett@cipfa.org

CIPFA ANNUAL AUDIT CONFERENCE

22 & 23 May, York

The leading audit event in the public sector calendar once again provides strategic insight and practical support for those working in public sector audit.

T: 0207 543 5746

E: rikki.ellsmore@cipfa.org

IT AUDIT CONFERENCE

19 June, Birmingham

CIPFA's annual IT audit and IS update provides an essential focus on IT risks and value for money for IT auditors and specialists. This year's event will feature a range of expert speakers to help you protect your organisation and assess the cost-effectiveness of your IT contracts.

T: 0207 543 5854

E: alana.burnett@cipfa.org

HRA SELF-FINANCING – JOINT CHN/TMN CONFERENCE

17 July, London

This conference will explore the ways in which local authorities can progress their housing business plans and will consider the challenges and risks involved. We will also hear about the impact of the latest global financial issues.

T: 0207 543 5827

E: chantele.johnson@cipfa.org

LOCAL AUTHORITY ACCOUNTING TECHNICAL UPDATE CONFERENCE

July, location tbc

This seminar will highlight strategic issues arising from developments in local authority accounting and financial reporting, during a period of unprecedented change.

T: 0207 543 5746

E: rikki.ellsmore@cipfa.org

Key open courses

NEGOTIATING OUTSOURCING AND JOINT VENTURES WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR: A MASTER CLASS

8–9 October, Leeds

BUSINESS PARTNERING – MAKING THE TRANSITION

28 February, London;

21 March, Manchester

Business change courses

SHARED SERVICES ARCHITECTS PROGRAMME

5–6 March, London;

17–18 September, Manchester

ESSENTIALS OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT

7–8 March, London;

12–13 March, Leeds;

29–30 October, London

Finance for finance professionals courses

PRACTICAL GUIDE TO OPEN BOOK ACCOUNTING
17 October, London

ADVANCED COMPONENT ACCOUNTING
5 March, London

INTRODUCTION TO IFRS
7 March, London;
9 May, London

Governance, audit and risk courses

FRAUD INVESTIGATION
– THE BASICS
6–7 March, London

LEAN AUDIT
14 May, London;
10 October, London

ASSURANCE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR
15 May, London;
11 October, London

ADVANCED AUDIT COMMITTEES
19 June, London;
20 November, London

ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR BOARD MEMBERS
2 July, London

Finance for non-finance professionals courses

EXCEL SKILLS FOR MANAGERS
6 June, London

FINANCE FOR NON-FINANCIAL MANAGERS
13 June, London

In-house training for your team and organisation

Get CIPFA training courses in-house. Contact our team or call Claire Simmons on 020 7543 5842.

Accredited Training Programmes

Choose from our range of specialist training:

[PRINCE2®](#)

[Open Book Processes – new dates](#)
May 21 – 22 and June 11

[Certificate in Investigative Practice](#)

CIPFA regions events

CIPFA IN THE MIDLANDS AGM
DEVELOPMENT DAY
7 March, 12.30 PM

This free event is a fantastic opportunity to hear from CIPFA President Tony Redmond, congratulate newly qualifieds, and meet colleagues old and new.

Find out about the new Professional Qualification (from Brett Crabtree) and attend the development session from Judith Sunley on Leadership, Motivation and Confidence in times of change.

www.cipfa.org/Events/C/CIPFA-in-the-Midlands-AGM--Development-Day-20130307

CIPFA IN THE MIDLANDS QUESTION
TIME STYLE DEBATE TWO
24 April, 4.30 PM

Save the Date for the second in the 2013 series of the popular 'Question Time' style debates. The topic and panel will be announced nearer to the time. Keep an eye on the website for the latest developments.

www.cipfa.org/Events/C/CIPFA-in-the-Midlands-Question-Time-Style-Debate-Two-20130424

CIPFA IN THE NORTH WEST NORTHERN
SECTION SEMINAR THE WATERSHED MOMENT A
CHALLENGE TO DELIVER CHANGE
15 March, 2013

The Northern Section is once again hosting a full day seminar at the South Ribble Borough Council Offices in Leyland. Come and join colleagues to hear about new ideas and government

initiatives, and join in an open discussion on the practicalities and issues arising from change.

www.cipfa.org/Events/C/CIPFA-in-the-North-West-Northern-Section-Seminar-The-Watershed-Moment-A-Challenge-to-Deliver-Change-20130315

CIPFA SOUTH WEST SPRING SEMINAR
Taunton,
Friday 22 March 2013

This event will incorporate the CIPFA South West Annual General Meeting. CIPFA President, Sir Tony Redmond, will be there and once again the event will be completely free of charge for members and students.

Book your place, and watch out for further programme details, at: www.cipfa.org/Events/C/CIPFA-in-the-South-West-Spring-Seminar-AGM-20130322.

PUBLIC FINANCE IN WESSEX 2013 CONFERENCE
AND EXHIBITION
Hampshire County Council,
Monday 4 March

A joint event between CIPFA South West and CIPFA South East for CIPFA members in Wessex.

Following on from the success of last year's inaugural event, this conference and exhibition promises to deliver great value for money, with a (soon to be finalised) programme that has been designed to help you continue delivering in challenging times. This one day event provides a fantastic opportunity for you to accrue crucial CPD hours.

www.cipfa.org/Events/C/CIPFA-in-the-South-East-Public-Finance-in-Wessex-2013-Conference-20130304

CIPFA SOUTH EAST: FURTHER INTO THE ABYSS,
OR THE ROAD TO RECOVERY?
Thursday 28 February

This morning event will focus on the fiscal challenges faced by the public sector and features a host of speakers followed by a panel debate with

questions from the audience. This event promises to sell out fast so act now to secure your place.

www.cipfa.org/Events/C/CIPFA-in-the-South-East-London-Division-event-Further-into-the-abyss-or-the-road-to-recovery-20130228

**CIPFA SOUTH EAST:
SPRING CONFERENCE AND AGM**
Wednesday 20 March

This year's conference, themed – Surfing the Tides of Change focuses on how individuals and organisations can best respond to the challenging times ahead. Featuring presentations from Sir Tony Redmond, CIPFA President and Tony Travers from the LSE as well as case studies on radical thinking and personal development, our flagship event promises to be a great day of learning and networking.

www.cipfa.org/Events/C/CIPFA-in-the-South-East-Spring-Conference-and-AGM-20130320

CIPFA IN THE NORTH EAST ANNUAL DINNER
Friday 8 March 2013

CIPFA's National President Sir Tony Redmond will be amongst the guests present, along with representatives from the other regional executives and our colleague accountancy bodies. The evening provides an excellent opportunity to network with colleagues in and around the Region, and to welcome our newly qualified CIPFA members.

www.cipfa.org/Events/C/CIPFA-in-the-North-East-Annual-Dinner-20130308

**CIPFA IN THE NORTH EAST PROFESSIONAL
UPDATE DAY AND AGM**
Friday 22 March 2012

www.cipfa.org/Events/C/CIPFA-in-the-North-East-Professional-Update-Day--AGM-20130322

CIPFA CYMRU-WALES AGM
15 March

Join CIPFA colleagues from across Wales for a topical CPD update and the Annual General Meeting of the CIPFA Cymru-Wales Branch. The AGM this year will involve the election of Branch Officers for the next two years, so we'd like to see as many members here as possible.

www.cipfa.org/Events/C/CIPFA-in-Wales-CIPFA-CymruWales-AGM-20130315

**CIPFA NORTH WEST AUDIT RISK & GOVERNANCE
ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING EVENT**

An annual CPD event for public sector audit, risk and finance professionals. This year's event is themed 'keeping fit for purpose'. Delegates will learn from high profile governance failures, hear about procurement developments in the region and how internal audit can add value to the procurement process, get insight on the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and Local Government Finance Act 2012 and how internal audit can smooth the transition, and get advice on dealing with the risks of new and emerging technologies.

www.cipfa.org/Events/C/CIPFA-North-West-Audit-risk-and-Governance-Event-20130301

