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SOCIETY OF CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS

SPOTLIGHT ON MARK PRISK MP



BUSINESS MINISTER JOINS US FOR LUNCH

Mark Prisk, MP for Hertford and Stortford and Minister for Business and Enterprise at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) will be our guest for lunch on Friday 4 May at Manor of Groves Hotel in Sawbridgeworth where you will be able to hear about his work in the region and for businesses.

As well as representing members in the district, Mark also has a good working relationship with ICAEW and we thought we would highlight some of the areas where we have been working and lobbying Mark.

On a quarterly basis Mark holds a meeting called the Small Business Economic Forum. This brings together the heads of major business organisations to discuss and advise on small business issues. Michael Izza our chief executive, and Clive Lewis, our head of enterprise are members of the Forum. When they attend the Forum they draw on the expertise of our members to work alongside other small business organisations to help inform Government policy.

For example, our annual member survey showed that HMRC service standards have been an issue for a number of years and have deteriorated since

2007, so in January this year Michael presented a paper on HMRC service standards – ICAEW had suggested this topic owing to members' enormous concerns on this front. Michael discussed why our members think this is not just an administrative problem, but actually a drag on recovery and growth – every hour a business spends on the phone to HMRC is an hour they could be off growing their business. As well as Mark, the tax minister David Gauke and Treasury minister and ICAEW member Lord Sassoon were also there.

Last year we launched the Business Advisory Service where ICAEW Chartered Accountants in over 2,500 locations in the UK are offering free initial advice on issues such as securing bank and other finance, exporting, debt management or meeting regulatory and tax requirements. When this project was discussed with Mark he said, **'Small firms are the bedrock of the UK economy but some also need financial management support. This service is an example of how businesses can work together and will hopefully lead to local economic growth and potential job creation.'**

The Department for Business has launched the BIS SME Finance Fitness Campaign. This is a three-month campaign, announced by Mark to help small firms manage their affairs better and access much-needed funds to grow and export. Michael spoke at the launch event on 10 November, which included David Cameron and the BIS Secretary, Vince Cable. We are also supporting BIS in the delivery of their regional workshops as part of the campaign.

We have also been working with UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), and in partnership with them we recently published an *Accountants Guide to Exporting*, and circulated it to all BAS offices. In November Michael spoke on a panel on finance fitness during the joint BIS and UKTI SME conference.

To book your place to discuss these and other issues with Mark over lunch at Manor of Groves, please visit icaew.com/bbhevents. Tickets for a two-course lunch including a glass of wine, cost £30 (incl VAT) per person and you can buy them online with a credit or debit card. Alternatively download, complete and return the booking form as directed or email bbhsca@icaew.com



Mark Prisk MP, Minister of State for Business and Enterprise

Mark Prisk was appointed as minister for Business and Enterprise in May 2010, in the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. He chairs the BIS Small Business Economic Forum at which ICAEW is represented on by Michael Izza.

Mark was elected as the Member of Parliament for Hertford and Stortford in 2001. His interests include small business and enterprise, urban planning and regeneration, as well as defence and foreign affairs. He served on the Conservative front bench from 2002, covering Treasury and business portfolios.

Born in Cornwall and educated at Truro School and Reading University, Mark is a Chartered Surveyor by profession. He worked in the property and economic development markets, and ran his own business for 10 years before entering politics.

BOARD MEMBER GETS TOP MARK



Mark Protherough

Mark Protherough is responsible for ICAEW's learning and development work, covering qualifications including the flagship ACA, professional and academic education, and accountancy careers information.

Before joining ICAEW, Mark was managing director – education, training and development at the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, where he gained substantial international experience. His experience has included the development and launch of six professional accountancy qualifications throughout his career, including the launch of the new ACA in 2007. He was also responsible for introducing mandatory Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for over 100,000 members worldwide, together with supporting services.

Mark is an expert in education and training, underlined by the development and implementation of a new professional examination scheme and other qualifications for over 300,000 students in over 160 countries together with underpinning IT systems.

Some of the qualifications he has been responsible for include the Certified Accounting Technician, BSc in Applied Accounting (with Oxford Brookes University) and Certificate and Diploma in International Financial Reporting.

Mark said: **'ICAEW has an incredibly exciting future ahead of it. During the last five years, I have seen at first hand how it has been transformed into a more focused, international organisation working across multiple markets. I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to be part of the board and leadership team that will build on the progress we have made.'**