

ICAEW Scotland Annual Report 2021/22

INTRODUCTION

The last 12 months have been a challenging time for most with the on-going impact of the pandemic and the more recent geo-political issues with the invasion of Ukraine. Against that concerning backdrop, we have sought to keep our focus on supporting and engaging ICAEW members in Scotland.

It has been a time where we have remained in the virtual environment and I have been delighted with the work undertaken by the ICAEW Scotland team to help provide relevant and engaging content and events. If there is one over-riding theme, it has definitely been around sustainability... no real surprise with COP26 and the bigger picture regarding the planet. Another theme has been intergenerational fairness and, again, you can look at passing the planet on in one piece as part of that!

During the year, we spent some time getting more structure around the sub-group ways of working, and we were delighted with the interest and energy around those. Most obviously, the sustainability sub-group have been particularly active. Other groups in Technology, Tax, and Women in the Workplace have started to move the agenda forward as well.

There are three key areas at ICAEW reflecting the strategic aims and some of the events in this area have been:

BELONGING AND SUPPORTING

- We have sought to reach of our virtual events to engage members more broadly across Scotland
- Sustainability workshop in June (Business and sustainability – valuing what really matters) – which linked with Hilary Lindsay’s member talk and the ‘complete professional’ at the AGM last year and a collaboratively written report from the Sustainability sub-group, [How can chartered accountants help to shape a greener, fairer, more resilient future?](#)
- Sustainability calendar linking with COP26 in November
- ESG panel with partners (CISI event)
- The beginning of a series of sustainability case studies – Glaze and Save, The Catalyst Fund
- Leadership conversations (Deloitte, property, National Trust for Scotland, supply chain, ACS Clothing on sustainability (part of ICAEW Climate Week)
- Establishing the various member led groups – especially the new women’s group and technology

- Young member event on career conversations (panel discussion with members who have chosen different career paths sharing their journey and choices)
- New ways of working panel event (and also taking that topic further with the recent women's discussion on mental health)
- Building on the tourism and hospitality insights with follow-up panel event – engaging new members to share insight (as with a number of leadership conversations)
- Supporting small practitioners with regular forum and informal breakout groups for discussion
- First event for Tech sub-group on Blockchain, Cryptocurrency and Security – linking with ICAEW Tech and the Profession.

REPUTATION AND INFLUENCE

- The release of our [ICAEW Priorities for sustainable growth through investment in Scotland](#), for the Scottish Parliamentary elections in May last year
- Roundtable with Scottish Government on skills, chaired by Iain Wright, ICAEW Managing Director, Reputation and Influence
- Inward investment theme identified by our Regional Strategy Board, which drove a follow-up roundtable with Ivan McKee MSP; as well as links with Scottish Development International and member article (written by Jane Walker) '[Outlooks on inward investment](#)' for the website
- The roundtable with Kate Forbes, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy exploring priorities for Scotland following COP26 and much more
- Member input to wider ICAEW consultation, including the BEIS White Paper
- Business Confidence Monitor (BCM) quarterly press coverage and linking events with presentations from CBI Scotland, British Business Bank, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, PwC (on energy transition) and South of Scotland Enterprise
- Bank of England roundtable with Michael Saunders from the MPC
- Supporting local COP26 activities in Glasgow – focus for sustainability sub-group #Accountants4COP26, Finance for the Future and the 'Our Planet' screening.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Supporting the Business Development Manager in Scotland, Sally Gallery's work around links with FE colleges and access to the profession
- Aberdeen University member presentation and Q&A to students
- Student informal gathering – to support local students (especially where they are the only student in the organisation).

So, there has been a lot happening!

As we move forward into the upcoming year, although there is uncertainty around many things, there is also a sense of moving forward with greater in-person contact. We will be keen to continue our support for members, conscious that this transition can create challenge at a personal level.

I would always seek to flag the work that CABA do, and can do for you, if needed. It goes well beyond the circumstances you may feel necessary, please visit their website at caba.org.uk for information. ICAEW Support Members also provide valuable and informal local support and a listening ear, [more information and local contacts via this link](#).

In conclusion, the phrase 'we live in interesting times' has never been more relevant and, at times like these, it helps to be part of a community of like-minded and right-minded individuals like our ICAEW Scotland community. I look forward to continuing that journey with you in the coming year and, together, being able to handle whatever comes our way!

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of our Secretary and Treasurer, Alan Livesey, who passed away in September 2021.

THANKS

I would like to extend my thanks to the ICAEW Scotland team and my fellow committee members. Thanks also to everyone involved in leading events and new ideas during these difficult times.

Stelios Kornaros

President

ICAEW Scotland

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