

QAS accredited organisations are represented by Senior Quality Assurance Representatives (SQARs) and their second Forum was held in London on 30 November 2016. This forum is for the benefit of the SQARs to help lead the ongoing development of best practice and to help ensure that the industry continues to evolve and improve.

The next SQAR Forum is a full day session which will be held on **17 May 2017** in London.

GUEST SPEAKER – DR CATHERINE MCCALL

Dr. McCall is an artist and practical philosopher in ethics, thinking and creativity in business, communities, professions and government.



Given that speaking up is an area of focus for the QAS, Dr McCall was invited to the SQAR Forum to facilitate a session on 'Listening Skills'.

This was deliberately a very different form of session and consequently provided much food for thought.

SQARs were asked to consider the session, after having a few days to reflect on the learning points, and to think how they may do things differently to encourage more speaking up.

QAS ANNUAL RETURN: WHY, WHAT, WHEN AND HOW

Douglas Green, of the QAS Sub Committee, discussed the benefits, purpose, and requirements for the QAS Annual Return. This gave SQARs an opportunity to ask questions ahead of their submissions in 2017.

THE FIRST YEAR OF QAS

Iain McGrory, QAS Sub Committee, looked back over some of the initial findings from the first year of QAS. Iain emphasised the value of the QAS and important role of the SQARs who have been chosen for this role by their organisations because of their skills, leadership and their influence. An important benefit of the SQAR Forum is to share best learning and best practice across QAS organisations. During this session, Willis Towers Watson and Aon Hewitt Limited took the opportunity to share examples of best practice for review work.

QAS: POTENTIAL REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS



Des Hudson, Chair of the Regulation Board, facilitated the Forum and also led discussions on potential regulatory developments to complement the QAS.

All organisations and members will have further opportunities to input to the development of these proposals.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS TO QAS ORGANISATIONS – FIONA MORRISON

Fiona Morrison, Immediate Past President of the IFoA, presented the QAS awards to organisations that have achieved QAS accreditation since the first awards ceremony in April.

Congratulations to the following QAS accredited organisations!



Joanne Cummings and Alison Sturgess
Quattro Pensions Consulting Limited



Terry Gibbs
Pensions and Actuarial Services Limited



Aidan Smith
Government Actuary's Department



Philip Ingram
Bradshaw Dixon and Moore Limited



David Lechmere
OAC plc

The QAS is a voluntary accreditation scheme for organisations that employ one or more members of the IFoA. For more information please visit www.actuaries.org.uk/qas or get in touch at qas@actuaries.org.uk.