



CONFERENCE 2024

Wednesday 22nd May
Being Commercial



9.00-9.10 am ... Conference opening and welcome

- Julie Welsh - Chief Executive, Scotland Excel

9.10-10.00 am ... Role, remit and why championing competition and the needs of Scottish consumers matters

- Kenneth Watt, Head of Devolved Nations, Carol-Anne Frame, Scotland Policy and Project Officer and Mary Reilly, Compliance Communications Manager, Competition and Markets Authority (CMA)

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) help people, businesses and the economy across all four nations of the UK by promoting competitive markets and tackling unfair behaviour. The CMA's presence in Scotland has grown over the last 5 years with almost 100 people now based in the Edinburgh office. As well as supporting people and businesses, we support the public sector in considering competition matters when it comes to public spending. The session will give an overview of our recent work, including a brief update on our bid-rigging support for public procurers as well as our competition assessment training.

10.30-11.30 am ... Technology - the need of “interoperability” and thinking differently as a wider public sector

- Martyn Wallace, Chief Digital Officer, Digital Office

Moving forward. Moving faster. Moving together. Martyn will have you thinking differently in terms of technology and interoperability.

12.00-1.00 pm ... Commercial agreements supporting public sector banking requirements to drive innovation and value for money

- Lee Edmonds, Head of Payments Categories and Chris Chamberlain, Category Manager for Open Banking, The Crown Commercial Service (CCS) Financial Services Group

How to maximise innovations and how value can be driven through Payments Acceptance (merchant acquiring, payment initiation, payments consultancy services) and innovative Open Banking (account information services, payment initiation services, confirmation of payee services) commercial agreements, along with case studies and examples of these innovations in practice.

2.00-3.00 pm ... Profit for a Purpose or Risky Business?

- Mo Baines, Chief Executive, Association for Public Service Excellence

With a growth in demand on public services and limited financial resources to meet them, Mo will look at the different aspects of commercial work from small trade in local services to heavy investment in assets. Mo will explore the public policy conundrums between 'profit for a purpose' to reinvest in local services or taking decisions which could be costly if they go wrong; she will ask 'what is the risk appetite in your sector?'

3.30-4.30 pm ... Our Journey to Net Zero – reflections from the Electric Vehicle Charging Sector

- Alastair Young, Associate Director, Net Zero Transport, Scottish Futures Trust

SFT is an arm's-length company owned by Scottish Government. Its infrastructure specialists work hand in hand with the public and private sectors to maximise the benefits of their infrastructure projects – whether that is how they are paid for, how they are built, how they are used or how they are maintained. Surface transport is a significant source of carbon dioxide emissions. Alastair has been working with Transport Scotland and local authorities across Scotland for a number of years to accelerate investment in the public electric vehicle charging network to reduce these emissions. In this session Alastair will share some reflections on the opportunity the Net Zero agenda presents to deliver new infrastructure and new services to enable change.

Get in touch

Contact us to find out more about our services and how we can help your organisation:

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