



2 December 2015

Investigation Committee increases Independence and Transparency

The IPA is committed to a greater degree of independence in the decision-making process applied to complaints and has decided to increase the lay input on its Investigation Committee, which considers most of the complaints it receives and has the ultimate say in whether matters are investigated. The Committee has a healthy mix of practitioners, but from January will, for the first time in the Association's history, have a narrow majority of lay contributors. We believe this strikes the right balance between technical and practical input from professionals and the independent scrutiny needed to provide confidence in the effectiveness of this public-facing aspect of regulation and the crucial function this plays in winning hearts and minds amongst those who find themselves embroiled in insolvency for one reason or other.

Mark Sands, President, commented:

"The IPA has been driving enhancements to the effectiveness of the complaints process, but we recognise that more can be done to assure external stakeholders that the system serves them well in the majority of circumstances. It's in all our interests to enhance transparency and confidence in this, one of the most important aspects of self-regulation."

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About the Insolvency Practitioners Association

The IPA is the only one of the recognised professional bodies specialising solely in insolvency. Its principal aim is to promote and maintain standards of performance and professional conduct amongst those engaged in insolvency practice. It has some 2,000 individual and firm members and students and is the second largest, in terms of the number of licensed insolvency practitioners (IPs), of the professional bodies recognised for the purposes of authorising IPs under the Insolvency Act 1986. The IPA currently licenses in excess of 550 IPs in the UK. You can find an IPA IP on its website:

www.insolvency-practitioners.org.uk