



Insolvency Practitioners Association appoints Interim CEO

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The Insolvency Practitioners Association (IPA), the UK's largest insolvency regulator and the sole body dedicated to the profession, has announced the appointment of Paul Smith as its Interim CEO.

Paul has enjoyed a long career operating to Board level in UK financial services. While Managing Director at HSBC Private Bank (UK), Paul was appointed Chair of the Private Banking Advisory Panel of the British Bankers Association. When at Coutts, Paul's role included representing the UK business in the Financial Crime and Reputational Risk Committee.

Paul joins the IPA following a time of transformation and modernisation across its regulatory operations and member services, overseen by outgoing CEO Michelle Thorp. The IPA looks forward to continuing this work under Smith's tenure.

Commenting on his appointment, Paul said:

"I am pleased to be joining the IPA at such an exciting time for the Association. I look forward to continuing Michelle's good work."

IPA President Kevin Hellard commented:

"I am delighted to welcome Paul to the IPA and look forward to working with him. I thank Michelle for her excellent work leading the IPA and implementing changes such as the Volume Provider Regulation Scheme and our new, agile approach to monitoring and updated complaints processes, as well as new member services technology and the widening of membership and licence criteria."

Outgoing CEO Michelle Thorp commented:

"I am very pleased by Paul's timely appointment. I am proud to have led the IPA through a time of modernisation and transformation across several areas."

"Thank you to the Board, our Committee members, Secretariat and our members for supporting the UK's dedicated insolvency regulator and a world-class profession whilst I have been here."

- ENDS -

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About the IPA

The IPA licenses and regulates Insolvency Practitioners under insolvency and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) regulations, and works to raise professional standards through professional training, benchmarking, networking, best practice sharing and other engagement opportunities.