

Professional development

Our professional development programme comprises a suite of courses and qualifications for IR professionals at every stage of their career. For more information and to book a course, see: www.irsociety.org.uk/professional-development.

IR regulation and compliance essentials

In this *Informed* interview, we ask Deborah Morton-Dare about her professional background and why the IR Society course she teaches is of great benefit to IR practitioners.

The IR Society's 'IR regulation and compliance essentials' course is recommended for all members who should attend at least once to ensure they understand the legislative environment in which they work. Here Deborah Morton Dare shares details about the 'core' course and explains what attendees will gain to benefit their IR career.

Can you tell us about your background and career journey, and what led you to becoming a tutor focusing on IR?

I qualified as a chartered accountant with the big four in London and started my career in corporate finance. This introduced me to financial markets and the need for effective communication from companies to potential investors and lenders.

My two other current roles are as the finance programme lead for the Institute of Directors (IOD) Chartered Director programme, and as a company director. I have held board positions throughout my career which gives me the high-level strategic perspective from the company that IR needs to communicate.

Could you provide a brief overview of the IR regulation and compliance essentials course that you teach?

The course aims to give a foundation of knowledge to allow the delegates to be aware of what legislation affects the IR function, and when and whom they should ask for advice and guidance. The



Deborah Morton-Dare is an IR Society course trainer and programme lead for finance at the Institute of Directors.

regulatory landscape is always evolving and the duty of a listed company is to understand its responsibility to comply in order to achieve fair and orderly markets.

What will the delegates learn from the course, and how will it directly apply to their day-to-day roles?

The course aims primarily to give awareness of the range of relevant regulation and to explain what the regulation is trying to achieve, and when and how it is applicable to an IR function.

How do you structure your courses to ensure they remain engaging and interactive for participants?

The course is very interactive with discussions of delegates' own experiences and relevant examples of cases of when it applies.

Dates for 2025

Monday 14 April: *Online*

Tuesday 26 August: *In-person*

Tuesday 28 October: *In-person*

Wednesday 10 December: *Online*

What unique perspectives do you bring to the course that delegates might not find in textbooks or traditional materials?

I have worked in both financial markets and as a board director so bring my own experience of both sides of the communication process.

What key skills will delegates gain, and how will these improve their ability to communicate effectively with stakeholders?

Understanding what the regulation aims to achieve helps delegates be more proactive and concise in their communication.

Why is professional development through courses like this important for IR practitioners?

The role of IR is continually evolving and the constantly changing landscape of regulatory responsibilities means an IR professional should stay up-to-date in order to be of value to their organisation.

IR is a multidisciplinary role which means that learning new skills to complement your existing ones will enable you to effectively fulfil your role. ■