

**Free webinar: A Single Version of the Truth: Rebuilding confidence in institutions through better information management**

In the aftermath of the disputed US election, ex-President Barack Obama has been talking about the need for all of us to be able to find and agree what he describes as a 'common set of facts' as the basis on which to debate policies and explore futures. This theme was explored in our article by Workshop Director, Neil McCallum, on 'a single version of the truth,' earlier this year. Perhaps never before have we so needed the effective collection, collation, categorisation and management of information to identify our way forward, whether it is in combating a pandemic, rebuilding our economies or healing a fractured nation.

[This free webinar](#) on 10 December at 1.30 p.m. GMT, led by Neil, will consider what this means in reality, in particular in respect of public sector information. It will touch on the underlying principles of effective information management, where this is taking us today and offer you an opportunity to be part of this critically important debate.

In 2021, Neil will facilitate our [Effective Records and Information Management](#) professional development workshop from 8 to 19 November. Whilst none of us can predict what the situation will be when this workshop runs, one thing is clear: the role of those who know how to gather, collate, classify and make available reliable information has been highlighted in a way unseen before. Our Workshop Directors and contributors are following developments around the world and as part of this workshop they will be drawing on the latest case studies and strategies to identify with you what works, and where there may be pitfalls to avoid.

[Register here for this webinar](#)

**Free webinar: Taking a new look at Learning and Development**

This [free webinar](#) on 15 December at 1.30 pm GMT is aimed at managers and others who are responsible for making significant decisions about investment in learning and development.

The Covid-19 pandemic has put additional pressures on organisations world-wide. When times get tough we know that budgets and resources are affected and funding for training and development are often among the first casualties. Right now, we need to turn the crisis into an opportunity and look creatively at ways of increasing the capacity and the resilience of our staff.

We know from listening to clients that the need for staff development is still pressing but as well as affordability they now have the additional pressure of not being able to supply training from traditional sources, that in former times meant travelling to training venues and/or working in large groups.

Some things haven't changed – the systematic identification of who needs training in what and how to evaluate the value from training interventions remain key issues.

In turning a crisis into an opportunity, this webinar will enable you to think again about how to plan, deliver and evaluate training interventions. It will explore using the workplace as a learning laboratory and how management and staff roles might change for the better in upskilling our workforce.

The webinar will be led by Sheena Matthews whose career has been dedicated to working with decision makers globally to get the best from investment in learning and development. The session will be interactive and participants will be encouraged to share experience and ideas via the on-line platform.

[You can register for this free webinar here.](#)

## **The Role of Parliaments in Times of Crisis: Front-line players, referees – or just noisy spectators?**

This free webinar will take place on 12 January at 1.30 GMT. The global pandemic has had massively disruptive and worrying consequences for us all. It has impacted hugely upon the people and governments of nearly every country and region, worldwide. Moreover, in many countries the impact of COVID-19 has been compounded by and has sometimes exacerbated other, pre-existing, critical economic, social and political challenges – not least, in the United Kingdom, where the COVID-19 crisis has unfolded alongside the long-running saga of Brexit.

As democratically elected bodies exercising constitutionally designated law-making functions, national and sub-national parliaments are heavily involved in the political and legislative responses to such major crises. But, at the same time, the urgency of the need to find solutions may sometimes threaten to push parliaments aside: conventional legislative procedures may be short-circuited by executive decrees and by recourse to very extensive secondary legislation; normal mechanisms of parliamentary scrutiny of legislative and policy decisions can become casualties of the pressures for swift action.

There is often an already-existing imbalance of resources between the executive and parliaments, especially for policy development and analysis. Crises such as COVID-19 can worsen that imbalance, as relevant expertise is concentrated in and around the centre of government, with parliaments having to make do with crumbs from the scientific table. Apart from the constitutional implications of major crises for the role of parliaments, the pandemic has sometimes posed particular logistical challenges to the ways in which parliamentary business is conducted. In the UK, for instance, 'social distancing' requirements have led to innovations such as online debates and committee hearings and remote voting.

This webinar will consider the constitutional and procedural impact on parliaments of major crises, using the UK's recent experiences both of the COVID-19 crisis and of Brexit for purposes of illustration. Participants will be invited to broaden the discussion by sharing their own national and local experiences.

We will consider:

- The constitutional and representative role of parliaments in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- The constitutional impacts of the COVID crisis and Brexit on the role and status of UK parliaments
- Recent and continuing procedural developments in response to recent major crises – and their longer-term implications

[Register for this webinar here](#)