



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Money Advice Scotland and the Institute of Money Advisers join forces to offer a qualification for money advisers in Scotland.

Money Advice Scotland (MAS) and the Institute of Money Advisers (IMA) are pleased to announce they will be working together with Staffordshire University to adapt the IMA Certificate of Money Advice Practice qualification to cover Scottish law and practice and make it available to Scottish money advisers in 2012.

This means that for the first time there will be one standard professional qualification for money advisers across all of the administrations in the UK available to advisers in both the free and fee charging sectors.

The qualification is studied over 12 weeks and is awarded by Staffordshire University. It covers 6 areas of study; managing legal advice cases, preparing for representation, representing clients, managing a personal caseload, social policy and money advice legal knowledge.

Caroline Siarkiewicz, Executive Director of the IMA said

"I am delighted to be working with Money Advice Scotland whose aims and objectives perfectly match our own; both organisations are focused and determined on raising standards of advice for consumers. Our partnership with MAS means that our qualification is now the single gold standard in testing and recognising the skills and knowledge of money advisers across the whole of the UK."

Yvonne MacDermid, Chief Executive of Money Advice Scotland commented

"I am very pleased that the Institute of Money Advisers and Money Advice Scotland are linking up to offer qualifications in Scotland. Money Advice Scotland already has a track record for delivering Scottish Vocational Qualifications in advice and guidance in Scotland. This is yet another string to our bow. We want, and will ensure, that the qualifications are accessible to as many advisers in Scotland, regardless of where they are based."

ENDS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: -

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NOTES FOR EDITORS: -

Institute of Money Advisers

The IMA is the only professional body acting solely for money advisers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and its mission is “Assuring quality in the money advice profession”.

The Institute of Money Advisers (IMA) is a Registered Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee it has over 1700 members who work for a wide number of organisations including Citizens Advice, Advice UK, local authorities, housing associations, student welfare services, law centres, employee support organisations, solicitors in private practice and insolvency practitioners.

The Certificate in Money Advice Practice is offered by Staffordshire University in partnership with The Institute of Money Advisers. Staffordshire University is the UK’s leading provider of higher education awards in the Advice Sector.



Money Advice Scotland

Money Advice Scotland (MAS) was set up in 1989 following an initiative by the Scottish Consumer Council (now Consumer Focus Scotland) and aims to promote free, independent, impartial, confidential money (debt) advice and financial inclusion. MAS represent those agencies involved in money advice and debt counselling ranging from voluntary organisations and local authorities through to banks, building societies, other members of the credit industry and government agencies.

A major part of the remit of Money Advice Scotland is to educate and train the sector, whilst also seeking to influence social policy, and provide research on money advice and

related issues. In addition we provide consultancy, conference and seminars which also assist us in realizing our mission.

Money Advice Scotland is a Registered Charity. Registration Number SC005663.