



CIPFA Scotland Public Finance Live 2025

Programme

Date: 3 September 2025
Venue: Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh
Address: 9 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JQ

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER
8.30	Registration and Refreshments	
09.10	Welcome	<p>John Cornett CIPFA Scotland President</p> <p>Sir Mark Lowcock CIPFA President</p> <p>Owen Mapley CEO, CIPFA</p> <p>Laura Miller Conference Host, Broadcaster and Journalist</p>
09.40	Keynote Address	<p>Ivan McKee Minister for Public Finance</p>
10.10	<p>Adapting to Fiscal Challenges: Future-Proofing Scotland's Public Services</p> <p>Scotland's public services face growing challenges in fiscal sustainability, which can disproportionately affect those with protected characteristics and lower incomes. With limited resources and increased demand, there is a need for innovative solutions to ensure that the most vulnerable in society aren't left behind.</p> <p>This session will explore how public organisations can address these issues by driving continuous improvement while ensuring that finance teams play a crucial role in making these improvements sustainable.</p>	<p>David Wallace Chief Executive of Social Security Scotland</p> <p>David Robertson Chief Executive of Scottish Borders Council</p> <p>Councillor Katie Haggmann COSLA</p>
11.00	Refreshments and Exhibition	
	Split Plenary Session One	Split Plenary Session Two
11.30	<p>The Essential Sector: Unlocking the Potential</p> <p>This session will highlight the importance of NPO's and how they can work with and support the public sector to deliver outcomes.</p> <p>Speakers to be announced</p>	<p>Small but Mighty: the Role of the Public Sector in Achieving Net Zero</p> <p>This session will look at the role we all must play in achieving Net Zero and will include working practices.</p> <p>Speakers to be announced</p>
12.15	Workshops	
	<p>Student Conference – The Challenge – Part One</p> <p>CIPFA Students and newly qualified will work together in this interactive session to discuss and to agree a solution to a potential career facing situation.</p> <p>Workshop One - Preventative Spending</p> <p>This session will explore the emerging framework for tracking preventative investment in local government. Based on CIPFA's project supported by the Health Foundation, speakers will provide key insights into mapping and measuring preventative spend, ensuring the sustainability of public services.</p> <p>Workshop Two - Importance of Performance Audit</p> <p>This session will look at performance auditing as an important part of the governance and accountability cycle and its potential for promoting the impact of public sector interventions on the lives of citizens.</p> <p>Workshop Three – Details coming soon</p>	

12.50	Lunch	
13.40	<p>AI in Action: Unlocking Public Sector Value in Scotland</p> <p>With rising demand and tighter budgets, Scotland's public servants are being asked to do more with less — all while protecting the most vulnerable. But what if artificial intelligence (AI) could help?</p> <p>Join this panel of experts and practitioners to explore how AI is already unlocking value in UK public services — and how you can get started, even with limited resources.</p> <p>From ethical considerations to real-world case studies and practical tools, this session is designed to demystify AI, inspire innovation, and equip you with actionable next steps.</p>	<p>Dr Tom Wilkinson Chief Data Officer, Scottish Government</p> <p>Florence Bastos Public Finance Advisor, CIPFA</p> <p>Speakers to be announced</p>
14.25	Workshops	
	<p>Student Conference – The Challenge – Part Two</p> <p>The groups will give feedback on their suggested approach to resolving the challenge issued in session one.</p> <p>Sponsor Workshop One – Details coming soon</p> <p>Sponsor Workshop Two – Details coming soon</p> <p>Sponsor Workshop Three – Details coming soon</p>	
15.00	Refreshments and Exhibition	
15.25	<p>The Future of the Finance Professional</p> <p>With rapid changes in societal demographics, technology and a growing focus on sustainability, what does this mean for current and future finance practitioners?</p>	<p>Owen Mapley CEO, CIPFA</p>
15.55	<p>Scottish Government Update</p> <p>Alyson will update delegates on current topical and relevant items of interest.</p>	<p>Alyson Stafford Director of the Exchequer, Scottish Government</p>
16.25	<p>The View from Holyrood</p> <p>The Editor of Scotland's foremost public and political magazine provides a personal perspective of the upcoming elections, Scotland's finances how we manage them and the relationship our politicians have with public money.</p>	<p>Mandy Rhodes Editor, Holyrood Magazine</p>
16.55	Conference close	<p>John Cornett CIPFA Scotland President</p>