

serving on ACCA's technical committees

■ One of ACCA's key corporate objectives is to enhance its reputation and influence within the profession and the business community. Among the ways we do this is by playing a full and active part, through our network of technical committees, in the process of developing legislation and technical and regulatory standards which will affect our members, their employers and their clients.

The quality and focus of the work of the committees depends to a great extent on the input of members. This year we would be pleased to hear from members who have relevant professional interest and experience and who would be interested in serving on any of the following committees:

- **Business Law Committee** – deals with the various aspects of the law as it affects

practitioners and businesses, including company law, insolvency law and money laundering rules.

- **Financial Reporting Committee** – reviews and comments on all draft accounting rules, including UK and Ireland financial reporting standards and SORPs and IFRS.
- **Tax Committee** – monitors and responds to all developments in UK tax law and administration as they affect practitioners and businesses.

If you wish to put yourself forward for service on any of these committees, please submit a short CV and reasons for your application to Damian Kingsley, technical department manager, ACCA, 29 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3EE (damian.kingsley@accaglobal.com). Requests for further information should be sent to the same address. ■

health and safety leadership in the corporate sector

■ Directors are traditionally expected to be corporate leaders, setting strategies and seeing through mergers - and indeed downsizing these days. One area of director leadership has not always stood out: health and safety performance.

In 2007-2008, 229 workers were killed and nearly 137,000 injuries to employees were reported in Great Britain. Over two million people had an illness they believed to be caused or made worse by current or past work. Corporate costs of failure in health and safety can also be high. These may be in terms of penalties, insurance costs or management time.

The Institute of Directors (IoD) and HSE issued *Leading Health and Safety at Work* in October 2007. Aimed at all directors (or their equivalents) in business, the public and third sectors, it includes auditing and reporting as important practices for larger organisations. It also refers to HSE's leadership guidance for

small enterprises.

One recent HSE success story is that of a waste management company with around 100 employees. Its board employed a health, safety and environment manager in 2000. She audited all the firm's sites. A health and safety policy was then produced, which is reviewed annually. The health and safety committee is made up of its directors, senior managers and employee representatives. The company has seen lower accident incidence, plus reduced insurance costs through fewer claims.

HSE is keen to promote further awareness and use of the leadership guidance. Those who examine and audit corporate performance are in an ideal position to remind directors about *Leading Health and Safety at Work*.

Leading Health and Safety at Work, together with supporting material, may be found at www.hse.gov.uk/leadership and www.iod.com/hsguide. ■

careers support from ACCA

■ At ACCA we are always working to provide tailored information and specialist advice for all key elements and stages in your career. A special section has been set up on the ACCA global website to collate information and advice to support members during the current economic situation – visit <http://www.accaglobal.com/economy/> for more information.

As the global economy goes into meltdown, with governments, economists, and financiers predicting worse to come, the market for accountancy skills is changing. For general help and advice on all aspects of your career visit the ACCA Career Pathway at <http://www.accaglobal.com/careers/>. ■



making sense of the Budget with ACCA

■ ACCA has introduced a range of resources to advise on the key points within the Budget and how they may affect individuals and businesses.

Wyn Mears, director of ACCA UK, says: "There were few giveaways in this Budget, as there has been little room for manoeuvre and worse still very little for small business. But our online resources aim to help those interested in the Budget navigate their way through some of the intricacies."

The resources include a short podcast accompanied by a presentation, delivered by Paul Soper, an ACCA Fellow and lecturer, which looks at the more relevant changes. This podcast is designed to be shared with finance professionals and their clients, for the expert and novice alike.

Also available is a rolling PowerPoint presentation focusing on some of the key points raised in the Budget. This is suitable for you to share with colleagues, send to clients, or to have on display at events or in your reception area.

A *Guide to the Budget 2009* has also been created – an easy-to-understand online guide to the key changes announced in the Budget 2009.

In addition, a Budget e-newsletter has been produced, containing in-depth articles as well as practical tips and advice on how to implement any changes.

The resources can be found at the following link <http://www.accaglobal.com/budget>, with the e-newsletter available at <http://newsweaver.co.uk/accatas/> ■

farewell to Corporate Sector Review

■ In January, ACCA relaunched its members' magazine *Accounting and Business*. With a much greater emphasis on the UK than before, the magazine now features much of the content previously published within *Corporate Sector Review*. Why not take a fresh look at *Accounting and Business* when the June issue arrives?

This relaunch has allowed ACCA to review how it communicates with its members and focus on its desire to be a more sustainable organisation. As a matter of course we now use our website and e-mail to provide you with details of our free events programme, (paid for) Professional Courses CPD events and other network news (eg elections to the panel).

With the above channels keeping you

informed of both news from ACCA and developments across the corporate sector, this – the 68th issue over 17 years – marks the final issue of *Corporate Sector Review*. We hope you have enjoyed reading the magazine and will continue to enjoy reading *Accounting and Business*. ■

Keeping your contact details up to date

ACCA strives to be a sustainable organisation, and is moving towards primarily electronic forms of member communications. Using e-mail and our website also allow us to communicate with you on a timely and cost-effective basis. Please take a moment to ensure that the e-mail address you have registered with ACCA is your primary, current, e-mail address. Login to MyACCA via www.accaglobal.com to check your details now.