

The Members have spoken

The IRM Networking North West Questionnaire

Well, actually the members have clicked – but that doesn't make for a good headline.

Thanks to www.riskagenda.com we were able to ask our members about how we're performing in the NorthWest and what we need to do improve.

The group committee were gratified that over 20% of members responded. The vast majority (84%) thought the group valuable or useful and no-one thought we are wasting our time.

What did you told us	What we're doing about it
Only about half of the respondents actually attend our meetings, mostly because they are too busy.	While we can't stop your bosses dumping last-minute deadlines on you, we will try and help from next year by setting our dates and broad topics at the December members' round table – This will help you get dates in diaries so that you can where possible avoid clashes. We are also improving communication about the continuing professional education points earned from our events by holders of the Institute's qualifications. This will add weight to the case if you have to justify coming along to your boss
You like the format of smaller, local free or low cost meetings (over 80%) in the afternoons (55%)	We'll keep on with meetings in the current pattern, but where we think charging still gives good value we'll sometimes depart from the "free" aspect to cover costs in booking venues, catering, and so on
You'd prefer meetings to be in Manchester and / or the Manchester – Liverpool axis (71%)	We will take up the generous offers of venues and attempt to move the meetings around to make travel easier
You like the concept of joint meetings with groups with similar interests (85%)	We will continue to pursue alliances with local organisations to give mutual benefit
Many of you want to help with Networking Northwest	55% offered speakers, topics, venues or practical help with running the group. We are gratefully following these offers up

Again, huge thanks to all those who took the time to give us their views. The free attendance at the next paid meeting was one by Donal O'Hanlon. Details of the responses are below.

Ray Butler
Mike Robertson
Andy Garlick
29 June 2007

Data

We received 53 responses. There are 278 people on the mailing list, but allowing for people at the centre, bad addresses etc, a better estimate of the local membership *we know about* is maybe 250. So the response rate is 21%.

How often do you attend meetings

Most	7	Other comments (summary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended once • Just joined/started • Finding time to attend • Clashes: how about an annual programme?
Around half	7	
Once a year	9	
Very occasionally	8	
Never	13	
Other	9	
No response	0	

We are only getting attendance from around 50% of those interested enough to respond; maybe 10% of the local membership.

What generally prevents you coming to meetings

Too busy	21	Other comments (summary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combinations or variants of the options provided • Greater priority of work commitments (6) • Remote location of respondent (4)
Topics not of interest	2	
Inconvenient location	3	
Inconvenient timing	4	
Insufficient notice	5	
Other	15	
No response	3	

A very clear response. All we can do is make the topics more immediately relevant, if possible, and perhaps publicise the programme further in advance.

Your format preferences

Smaller, local, free	33	Other comments (summary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 10 indicated a mixture of the options provided One excluded "smaller" Some in favour of more debate "Current format is fine"
Larger, national, charge	6	
Discussion / debate	3	
Other	10	
No response	1	

A pretty clear response to a badly phrased question. So although it's a little difficult to know how to interpret the answers, the message is we need to have more smaller, more responsive meetings. Should we put one or two larger, set piece meetings into the mix?

Your timing preferences

Lunchtime	10	Other comments (summary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range, but lunchtime inconvenient as too much time out Mix as at present Morning or whole day
Afternoon	29	
After work	7	
Whole day	3	
Other	3	
No response	1	

A very clear preference, but perhaps need to meet the needs of others.

Your location preferences

Manchester	24	Other comments (summary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not bothered (2) Non-urban / good parking (2) Scarborough / North Yorkshire (2)
Manchester-Liverpool axis	14	
Central Lancashire	1	
Moves around	8	
Other	6	
No response	0	

A clear preferred option, but this is perhaps self-fulfilling. Perhaps we could increase interest by moving round a bit.

Joint meetings

All groups	34	Other comments (summary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixture (same as "all groups?") (3) • Doesn't matter • Joint meetings 1-2 times per year, otherwise IRM-only
Risk groups only	11	
IRM only	2	
Other	5	
No response	1	

No clear wish to change.

How would you like to help

Sponsorship	1	Other comments (summary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible venue offers (2) • Would like to but ... (4) • Depends on commitment (2) • Links with IOSH (2) • Will circulate info within their team • Sourcing speakers
Venue	7	
Refreshments	2	
Speakers	10	
Committee	11	
Other	12	
No response	24	

We will respond positively to all these offers of help. This is a good opportunity to gain more involvement as well as more resources.

What do you think of Networking North West

Valuable	22	Other comments (summary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not familiar enough to comment • General feeling it should be useful
Useful	22	
Waste of time	0	
Other	7	
No response	2	

Other comments

Comments	17	Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Appendix
No response	36	

There are some useful pointers to locations and topics that people would like to hear about.

Appendix: Comments

IRM North West Questionnaire: Comments

- 68 I recently attended the meeting on Risk Appetite which was very useful indeed. More meetings of this nature and size would be ideal.
- 73 I have already offered the NWDA as a location for a half day event to Mike, and am happy to organise the location for later this year if required.
- 78 As a consultant running my own practice I need to ensure that there is relevance in the subject matter offered. This need is generally met. Location exclusively in Manchester means that I have to factor in substantial time/cost for travel. Occasional meetings in Liverpool would be very welcome.
- 80 It might be good to have a discussion/debate about the report from the Better Regulation Commission entitled Whose risk is it anyway I would be interested to hear the views of other IRM members on this and to debate the relevance to business.
- 82 Would like to attend more, but work & personal commitments often prevent
- 87 Im sorry I can only give limited support at present. I travel a lot for my job, and 9/10 times Im away when the dates come round. I see it as a valuable community, and should be maintained.
- 92 I am particularly interested in managing risk within the SME sector and in support of corporate finance activity. I feel sometimes the subjects do not have a relevance to the SME sector.
- 94 I am not engaging with the group as I would have wished due to business commitments and the time/location of the meetings. In the future I will try to attend some of the group sessions if I can add any value or derive any academic benefit. Perhaps things may change when the current inertia within the civil aviation business dissipates.
- 102 Fairly new to this work area, so would be interested in more practical experiences in RM.
- 103 Keep up the good work!! Hope to be able to get to at least one meeting in the next year or so!
- 105 I would be interested in knowing how many IRM members are in the Merseyside area i.e. are there sufficient for local meetings?
- 106 Although colleagues have attended meetings in the past the last meeting was my first one. My only comment was that holding meetings in the afternoon in the city centre puts people under pressure to get out before the traffic.....this limits networking time which for me is 50% of the meeting value
- 112 Thanks for the opportunity to participate, sorry for the late response, I would like to think that the group could offer mentoring for students of the diploma and to provide clear benefits of membership of the institute.
- 114 Ive been attending for 18 months and for me the meetings are working. We may need to do more promoting of the

IRM with NW business and in particular their risk managers.

124 I am afraid I cannot get to many of these due to work and other association commitments. Soemtimes the meaty risk topics are a little academic for my business needs and the Govt / Local Authority bias can make a portion not relevant. Having siad this, its good to share and learn from others. Local meets are always a bit hit and miss but efforts should continue.

125 Series of joint Business Continuity Management events.
Joint CILA/IOSH workshop on defensive lawyering