



**Media Release**

**Monday, September 14, 2015**

**Gender pay gap under spotlight at North-east conference**

The effect of government moves to tackle the gender pay gap will be on the agenda at the North-east's leading conference for HR professionals.

With every company with more than 250 employees potentially having to publish the difference between the average pay of their male and female employees, delegates will learn what steps companies should be taking now as well as the other equality and diversity issues relating to gender they should be considering.

The annual Employment Law Conference is a unique North-east collaboration between three leading law firms – Burness Paull LLP, Pinsent Masons LLP and Simpson & Marwick – to provide relevant updates on legislation which affects industry.

Organised by Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce and held at the AECC, around 200 delegates will also discuss employing overseas nationals, as well as the thorny issues of data protection.

Toni McAlindin, an employment law specialist and HR practitioner with almost 30 years of experience in employment policies, is in attendance to advise on the management of employees, policy development and pertinent aspects of employment law.

Toni is a qualified barrister who specialises in labour law but she is also a Companion of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

She has almost 30 years of hands-on experience, lectures regularly on employment law issues at colleges and universities and has worked with a wide range of private and public employers.

They include the majority of Scottish and English local authorities, numerous government organisations, health agencies and many private sector companies from Scottish and Newcastle to Southern Water and IKEA to Harvey Nichols.

With an interactive workshop tracking the processes of an employment tribunal, the day is designed to deliver the knowhow and skills needed for HR professionals.

Sandy Kemp, Solicitor Advocate and Partner at Simpson & Marwick, said that the event has a dual purpose.

“The one thing common to almost all employment lawyers and HR practitioners I know, is that they all have a real interest in the subject matter.

“Employment law is a curious mix - it is partly keeping up to date with the dizzying pace of change, with legislation from the UK, and Europe, and with case law from tribunals and courts at many different levels.

“But it is also about resolving issues when they arise, considering what options are, and using an array of different techniques to get to where you want to be.”

The annual Employment Law Conference is being held on November 26 at the AECC. Further details can be found at [www.agcc.co.uk/networking-events](http://www.agcc.co.uk/networking-events)

## **Ends**

### **Notes to editor**

- Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce (AGCC) is North-east Scotland's leading private sector, member-focused, business organisation. The Chamber represents around 1,350 businesses with almost 130,000 employees in the private sector covering all industry sectors, ranging in size from sole traders to multi-national corporations.

### **Media enquiries to Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce**

Joanna Fraser, Communications Team Leader

Tel: +44 (0)1224 343926

Mob: +44 (0) 7891 547 965

Email: [joanna.fraser@agcc.co.uk](mailto:joanna.fraser@agcc.co.uk)

Twitter: @chambertalk