

NI Discussion Forum - Debt Collection in a Downturn - Annual Conference.

The Northern Ireland Discussion Forum (NIDF) hosted their second Annual conference on Thursday 10th September at Ulster Bank Group Head Office in Belfast.

NIDF for creditors, debt collecting agencies, and advisors aims to provide an important opportunity for communication, better understanding, and best practice between all sectors for the ultimate benefit of those individuals suffering serious financial difficulties.

At this years conference the theme was 'Debt Collection in a Downturn' and the associated implications this presents for people in Northern Ireland.

Difficult times pose problems for both debtors and creditors alike and when set against a backdrop of unprecedented demand for debt advice services, it is vital that the advice sector and the financial sector draw together and share their knowledge and expertise in seeking a way forward. This conference was a platform for representatives from all sectors to share experiences and network.

The event was a great success with the Minister of Enterprise and Investment, Arlene Foster providing the opening address. Speakers included Anthony Sharp, Co-Chair creditor (temporary) NIDF and Chair of the Money Advice Liaison Group, Debbie Mills Co-Chair advisor, NIDF and Eric Leenders of the British Bankers Association. The day closed with a question and answer with panel members from CCCS, Grant Thornton, Omagh Independent Advice Services, Cashflow Services NI, and the Office of Fair Trading.