

Improving CifA's training resources for Practitioner members: summary of survey responses



The responses to our last membership survey highlighted that Practitioner members found it harder to find relevant training to support their career development than Associates and Members.

As well as continuing to provide the existing training and conference opportunities, our new Events Manager is also looking at how we can improve and enhance these. We are particularly keen to ensure we provide relevant and accessible training to all individuals and wanted to find out more about what we can provide for Practitioners.

There were 102 replies to the survey which was sent to 680 Practitioner members, giving a 15% response rate. 48 of these individuals had previously attended a CifA annual conference or training event.

What training could CifA provide to support your professional development?

Respondents were asked to rate in order of preference what training they would like CifA to provide to support their professional development based on three options provided in the survey.

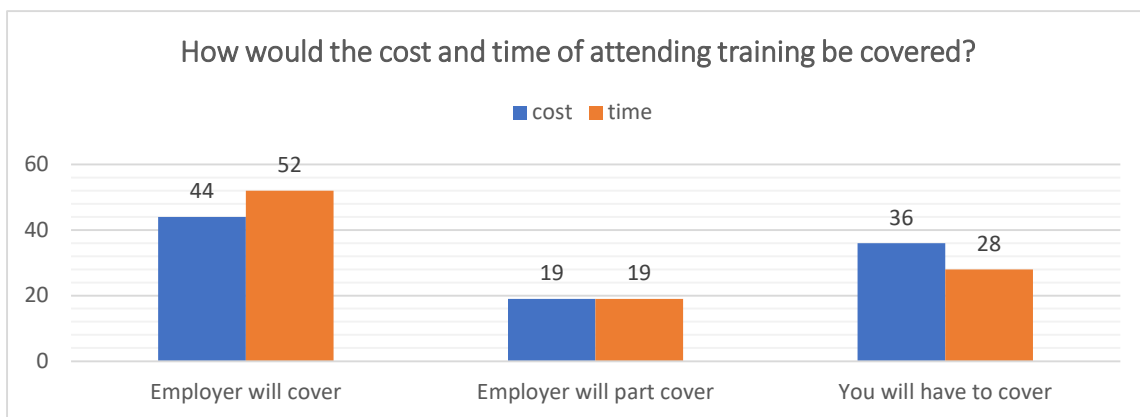
The preferred training CifA could provide would be specialist training through the Special Interest groups, followed by skills training eg professional ethics, writing reports, understanding desk-based assessments and then the use and application of CifA standards and guidance.

Based on their preferred option, respondents were then asked to provide more information on the specific training topics they were interested in. The most popular suggestions were

- Report writing x12
- Finds x11
- Geophysics x6
- Buildings archaeology, recording, understanding x5
- Marine x4

How would the cost and time of attending training be covered?

Respondents were asked to indicate how the cost and time of attending training would be covered.

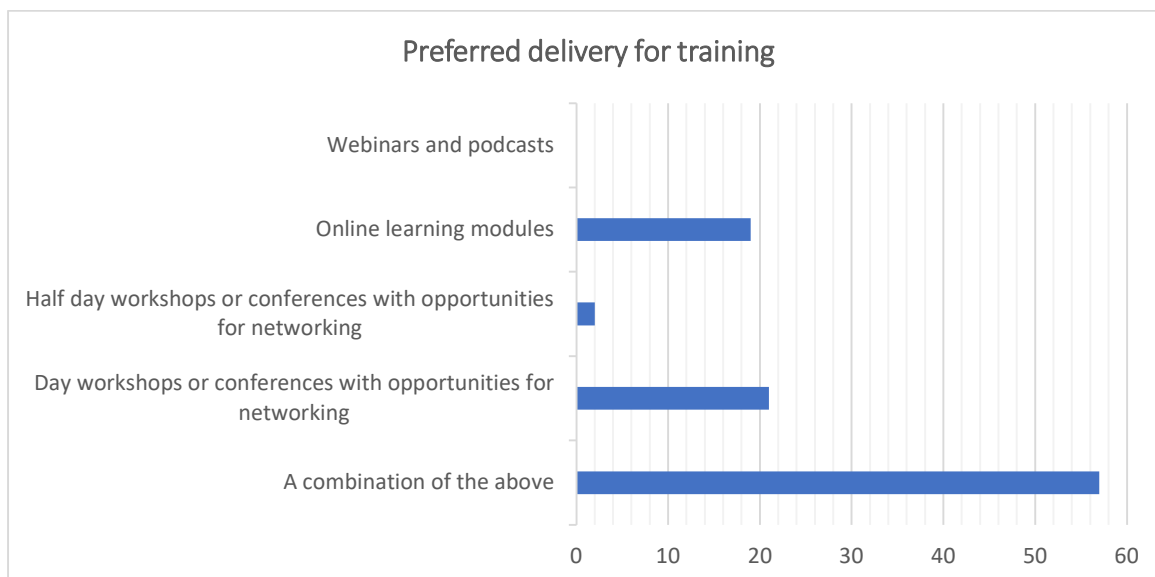


From the responses it seems that employers are more willing to cover the time for staff to attend training rather than paying for training fees. However, there was still a large percentage of respondents who would have to cover all or part of the cost and time of attending themselves.

Preferred delivery for training

Respondents were then asked to indicate their preferred delivery for training from the options provided in the survey.

Most respondents (58%) would like a combination of training delivery but it is interesting to note that the second most preferred option (21%) was for day long workshops or conferences with opportunities for networking. Online learning modules were also well supported by 19% of respondents.



Further suggestions for training opportunities aimed at Practitioner members

At the end of the survey respondents were asked to provide any further suggestions for training opportunities aimed at Practitioner members. The most frequent comments included:

- making them more accessible by holding them all over the country, and particularly more in Scotland
- encouraging employers to support the cost and time for Practitioners to attend training
- reduce the cost of training events
- more promotion of events and training that CIfA offers

Other sources of information about training provision for Practitioners

In addition to this survey, CIfAs Wales/Cymru group has also recently surveyed their members and included a question relating to training topics. The preferred topics selected by PCIfA members are as follows, in order of the number of requests

- Technical Skills: GIS, GAD and TST x10
- Archaeology of Wales x9
- Planning and legislation (UK and/or Wales specific) x7
- Heritage Impact Assessments x6
- Heritage Management x5
- Archives x5
- Desk based assessments x5
- Continuing professional development and personal development planning x5
- Environmental Impact Assessments x4
- First Aid for Mental Health x4
- First Aid for Finds x4
- Report writing x4
- Building Survey or recording x4
- Finds identification x4
- Site Survey x4

- Ecofacts x3
- Asbestos Awareness Raising training x3
- Managing Volunteers x3
- Project Management x2
- Presentation Skills x1
- Lobbying x1
- CIfA application workshop x1
- Diversity and Equality x1