

Sir,

Trying to monitor and ensure CPD is not really possible without setting up a whole testing/monitoring system. All the work that has been done achieves very little. Output based/input based are all very well, but if you do not test me, how do you know my competence. If you test, how do you know what to test me on. My chosen field of expertise might not require me knowing what most accountants need to know. This whole process is going in a direction that cannot by definition meet its objective.

Then there is the commercial aspect. If I were to attend all the seminars available, it would cost me a fortune (and makes the presenters/my society a good living), and the benefits I obtain are so small, because I only need about 10% of the information presented. Some of the information I need is never presented! I also could not afford the time they take, particularly as I waste 90% of the time involved, for above reasons.

I would like to suggest some broad brush strokes for an additional possibility:

Small peer group meetings, on a monthly basis, at or near to home/office, topic based, where we can have discussions, and share information. Held for between one and two hours in the evenings, where I can chose which I want to attend. Perhaps a 5 to 10 minute presentation by a peer, and then questions and responses from everyone. Maximum attendance guidelines (10 to 20 people). Something like facebook could be used to inform members of different topics, and possibly a meeting can be held weekly, and I could chose one out of four (with repeats of successful/topical conversations). The presenter would not need to have a specific expertise. He could even present a question he/she needs answering.

Ian Dunnett CA(SA)

Director: Finance

Tawati Gold