



## Accounts Payable Re-accredited by Professional Association

The Quality Programme is a voluntary accreditation from the Accounts Payable Association (APA) that recognises commitment to quality, continuous improvement and best practice in Accounts Payable. It helps review and improve AP processes, people development and strategic management. Successful completion of the programme confirms all of these areas are fit for purpose and aspire to best practice.

For the purpose of awarding accreditation, six areas are reviewed:

- Your Organisation
- Your People
- Your Accounts Payable Function
- Technology
- Sustainability
- Business Resilience

The report issued by the APA contained the following findings:

- *The NHS Wales AP team consists of dedicated professionals who have achieved remarkable results, processing 2.3 million invoices in the last year with minimal staff turnover despite a 45% increase in workload based back to 2019/20.*
- *The team's focus on automation and technological advancements, such as an in-house Robotic Process Automation (RPA) solution, has led to significant cost savings and efficiency gains.*

- *The AP teams play a pivotal role in working with APA partners in central government to support initiatives like the Prompt Payment Code and the "Good Business Pays" campaign to ensure suppliers are paid promptly and on time.*
- *Furthermore, the AP teams hold key supplier data for Scope 3 data reporting, which is essential for emissions and carbon tracking. Approximately 90% of the average organization's carbon emissions are associated with Scope 3 data, making AP's role pivotal in sustainability efforts.*

In conclusion the APA stated that:

*The NHS Wales Accounts Payable team has demonstrated outstanding performance, adaptability, and innovation in managing a significant increase in workload. With continued focus on technology, automation, collaboration with Procurement, and process improvement, the team can further enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness.*

*The APA acknowledges the team's dedication and recommends ongoing training, collaboration, and exploration of advanced technologies to support their continuous improvement journey.*

*The APAQ re-award and re-accreditation reflect the team's commitment to excellence in Accounts Payable.*

In addition, Russell Ward, who heads the Accounts Payable team, has been recognised as one of the APA's Key Influencers for 2023.