

Association of Independent Museums

AIM E-News Mid March Edition 2017 – Number 102 – **EXTRACTS**

Can You Help Us? Please Complete The New AIM Surveys

We are currently running two surveys to help us plan our future work and we welcome your vital feedback on both.

The first survey is for Trustees of independent museums. Please help us shape the 2017 AIM Trustee Seminar series and other support for trustees by completing the [AIM Trustee Survey](#) which should take a maximum of 15 minutes. We are keen to hear from as many trustees as possible, so please feel free to forward the link to colleagues who may not receive this newsletter.

The second survey has been designed to help us with the upcoming launch of our new website. It will take less than two minutes to complete and all responses will assist us with the design and content of the new website which is due to launch at the end of March. To complete the survey, [visit the current AIM website and complete the pop up form.](#)

Data Protection and Charities: The new General Data Protection Regulation – Be Prepared

Jackie Gray, a partner, and Emma Dewar, a solicitor, who specialise in data protection issues at [Bond Dickinson LLP](#), have kindly written an article for AIM members on '[Data Protection and Charities: The new General Data Protection Regulation](#)'. The article is particularly relevant to larger organisations with a wide-range of fundraising methods and data-handling responsibilities. AIM will publish additional guidance for smaller organisations later this year, focusing on the elements of changes likely to be most relevant to the relatively simple data-handling processes of most museums.

Spring Budget And Business Rates: Consultation Document For The Distribution Of The £300m Discretionary Relief Fund Announced

In the wake of the spring budget last week, central Government have [launched a consultation document to consult on proposals on the design and implementation of the locally administered Business Rates Relief Scheme](#). The fund is forwarded loaded with £175m in the first year and only £5m in the last year and is heavily weighted in favour of London. It is said that the aim is to target the hardest hit locations (hence London getting the lion's share) and hardest hit ratepayers, but with emphasis on ratepayers in low value properties.

According to Colin Hunter, Divisional Director of Lambert Smith Hampton who has worked with AIM for over ten years, museums will be one of the hardest hit sectors with increases across the country, some very substantial. There are also a large number of museums in relatively low valued properties, but without the benefit of Small Business Rate Relief. Add to this the continuing attrition of discretionary relief being given to museums the potential for Local Authorities to restore some or all of the discretionary relief, at no cost or reduced cost to the local budget for at least a year this new scheme could be of significant benefit to the AIM membership.

Creative United Launch The Prosper Programme

Funded by Arts Council England, Prosper will offer the opportunity for arts and cultural organisations, companies or individual entrepreneurs in England to participate in nine months of free, dynamic and impactful business support activities to improve resilience, commercial capacity or investment readiness. AIM is the museum industry partner for the programme, so [if you are looking for expert business advice](#), this could be your opportunity to benefit from business support in the form of 1-to-1 advice, masterclasses, workshops, webinars and meetups. Starting from 27 March, Creative United will be running a series [of regional events across England so that you can find out more](#). Prosper will be open for applications from Monday 27th March 2017