

HR INNOVATORS CONFERENCE 2026



Royal Automobile Club
89-91, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EY



Wednesday 23rd September 2026



9.00am - 2pm
First speaker starts at 9.30am

The HR Innovators Conference returns this September, bringing together HR professionals, industry leaders and influential voices to share fresh perspectives, explore new ideas and inspire progress across the workplace.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



SHARON LIVERMORE MBE

Founder, Trainer, Domestic Abuse Consultant

In 2015, Sharon narrowly escaped becoming part of a devastating statistic. Surviving that experience changed everything, giving her not just a second chance, but a mission to use her voice as a force for change.

Sharon is now an award-winning advocate, speaker and educator in the field of domestic abuse. In 2024, she was honoured with an MBE for services to victims of domestic abuse. Her work is rooted in lived experience and a powerful belief that the workplace can be more than just a place of employment – it can be a lifeline.



MARGARET OCHIENG

Organisational Psychologist, CEO, The Inclusive Village Consulting

Margaret Ochieng is an award-winning organisational psychologist, inclusion strategist and founder of The Inclusive Village. She helps organisations translate behavioural science and inclusion research into practical, evidence-based strategies that drive meaningful change.

Margaret has worked with organisations including the NHS, British Council and Munich Re, and is a sought-after keynote speaker, visiting lecturer and PhD researcher at Birkbeck, University of London.



GARY ABELA

Founder, CEO at AI Strategy Partners Ltd

Gary Abela has been building AI products since 2016, six years before ChatGPT made it a board topic. Before that he spent nine years at Legg Mason running UK Advisory Strategy & Distribution. He now runs AI Strategy Partners, the independent voice UK wealth management boards turn to when they need a clear view on AI from someone with no product to sell.

Gary now works with organisations to accelerate the practical adoption of AI, helping leaders prepare for the future of work.



JOHN DEAN

Head of Health and Protection at Secondsight

John has worked in corporate healthcare for over 30 years both in the UK and globally. John has vast experience in both advisory and supplier marketplaces, having led a number of award winning firms.

As an expert in healthcare trusts, John has worked with many of the largest UK employers helping them build bespoke corporate healthcare solutions. John works with large corporates and their advisers to ensure their healthcare scheme meets their unique needs and budgets.

SESSIONS



MATTHEW MITTEN

Director at Second Sight

Matthew Mitten is Director of Second Sight, the employee benefits division of Foster Denovo, and a member of the Executive Committee. With more than 20 years' experience in financial services, he helps organisations transform how they communicate pensions, benefits and financial wellbeing.

Matthew is also a respected commentator and regular speaker, sharing practical insights on employee benefits, workplace pensions, financial wellbeing and the evolving needs of today's workforce.



DARREN LAVERTY

Financial Wellbeing Strategist at Second Sight

Darren has spent 30 years in the financial services industry in a range of roles. He has finally found what he enjoys the most, which is to use his experience and knowledge to enhance financial wellbeing in the workplace where he feels there is no better place to make a difference.

He has the ability to empower a large number of people to take positive action to help them create more financial certainty and security.

AGENDA

9.00am - Registration with refreshments

9.30am - Opening of the day

Gavin Zaprzala-Banks

**Anti-racism and inclusion in a contested time:
How can HR lead both sceptics and believers?**

Margaret Ochieng

**What's shaping your pensions strategy?
Balancing compliance and member outcomes**

Matthew Mitten

Domestic abuse and why it is a workplace issue

Sharon Livermore

Refreshment break

Designing your ideal health and protection scheme

John Dean

What the rapid development of AI means for HR teams, employees and the future of work

Gary Abela

Financial wellbeing isn't enough. Behaviour change builds resilience.

Darren Laverty

**1.30pm - Closing of the day followed by
Networking Lunch**



LOCATION

The Mountbatten Room, Royal Automobile Club, 89 Pall Mall London SW1Y 5HS.

By Train, Pall Mall is within walking distance of Charing Cross, Victoria and Waterloo stations or taxis are readily available.

By Tube, the nearest tube stations are Green Park, Piccadilly and Charing Cross – all of which are within 10 minutes' walk.

Further location information, directions and to download a map [click here](#).

REGISTRATION

Upon arrival, please make your way to the main reception at RAC, where you will be directed to our meeting room.

Registration will take place between 9.00am and 9.30am. We would appreciate it if you would arrive as promptly as possible in order to avoid any delays in the event starting.

DRESS CODE

The RAC does have a dress code; dress smartly, with a degree of formality. For further details [click here](#).

ABOUT SECONDSIGHT

Second Sight is the employee benefits division of Foster Denovo, helping employers create workplaces where people can thrive.

We work with organisations across the UK to design and deliver employee benefits, pensions, financial education, health and protection solutions that improve employee experience and support better business outcomes.

By combining expert advice with creative thinking and a people-first approach, we help employers navigate an evolving workplace landscape while empowering employees to make more confident financial and wellbeing decisions.

At Second Sight, we bring clarity, care and creativity to employee benefits, helping organisations build healthier, more engaged and financially resilient workforces.