UHR Connects South
Wednesday 3 February 2027
Venue: Mills & Reeve Offices, London

Venue Details	Mills & Reeve Solicitors - London (24 King William St, London, England, EC4R 9AT) Here's the Google Maps link for the venue, which is a short walk from both London Liverpool Street and London Bridge stations. The nearest tube stops are Monument, Cannon Street and Bank. You can find more details on how to get there and the building's accessibility on the Eversheds webpage.
Speaker Details	Speaker bios can be found at the end of the programme

09:45	*Registration and refreshments*	
10:00	**Welcome and opening remarks (with UHR Update)**	**The UHR Team**
10:05 (15 min)	**Table Icebreaker Exercise** • Delegate introductions to table	**Emma Brookes** and **Sophie Crouchman**, Strategic Projects and Research Managers, UHR
10:20 (50 min)	**Keynote Address** • Session format: 30 min address, 20 min Q&A	**Janine La Rosa** Chief Executive Officer (Interim), HPMA
11:10	***Refreshments and Networking*** (20 min)	
11:30 (45 min)	**Keeping Icarus from the Sun: burnout in UK HE professional services** • Kelli Wolfe from Richmond American University will guide us through her research on burnout in professional services. • This interactive session will be focussed around bringing burnout research findings into the light and practical ways colleagues can empower their teams and institutions to address the pervasive culture of overwork in the UK HE sector. • Key learning points and takeaways for people professionals. • 30 min presentation, 15 min Q&A	**Kelli Wolfe**, Academic Registrar, Richmond American University - London
12:15 (45 min)	**AI in HR in HE: From Insight to Action** • Discover the key lessons emerging from UHR's AI Workshop series, hear how People teams across the sector are approaching AI adoption, and collaborate with peers to identify practical actions you can take back to your own institution. • 15 min presentation, 5 min Q&A	**Emma Brookes** and **Sophie Crouchman**, Strategic Projects and Research Managers, UHR

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	• 35 min group brainstorming	
13:00	***Lunch and Networking (60 min)***	
14:00 (50 min)	**Legal Focus with Mills & Reeve** • An interactive deep dive session on topical legal issues from Mills and Reeve colleagues • 20 min presentation, 10 min Q&A • 20 min structured group discussion on implications for practice and brainstorming to mitigate impact	Mills and Reeve
14:50	***Refreshments and Networking (15 min)***	
15:05 (50 min)	**HRD Insight Panel** • A session featuring insights from HR directors, focusing on in-depth discussion on the **current opportunities for HR in HE** and practical takeaways for delegates • 40 min discussion, 10 min Q&A	**Speakers TBC from local HEIs, including Margaret Ayers, Chief People Officer, University of the Arts London**
15:55	**What next? Summary and have a safe journey home**	**The UHR team**

Our UHR Connects South Speakers:



Janine La Rosa, Chief Executive Officer (Interim), HPMA

Janine La Rosa FCIPD is Chief Executive Officer (interim) of the Healthcare People Management Association (HPMA) and Strategy Workstream Lead for Employer Pioneers within Million Hearts and Minds, a joint NHS England and Department of Health and Social Care initiative focused on preventing cardiovascular disease through workforce-led innovation. A highly experienced NHS executive and people leader, she has led transformational change across workforce, culture, and organizational strategy. Previously, as Chief People and Strategy Officer at Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust, she embedded equity and inclusion at the heart of organizational strategy, improving progression opportunities for ethnically diverse staff, transforming disciplinary processes, and introducing the Manager's Licence programme to strengthen leadership capability. Nationally, Janine has championed race equality through the London Anti-Racism Collaborative Hub, sponsorship of the Race Equity Maturity Index, and leadership of the London Race Strategy. She is passionate about creating inclusive, high-performing workplaces that improve outcomes for staff and patients alike

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	**Kelli Wolfe, Academic Registrar, Richmond American University – London** Kelli Wolfe has worked at Richmond since August 2025. Born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona, she spent 12 years in Silicon Valley (Northern California) before moving to London in 2006. Working in UK higher education since 2008, she's held roles across various functions within student administration, admissions, quality management and student support in both traditional research-driven universities and smaller, private providers. She has studied at universities in the US, Germany and the UK and holds an MSc in Higher Education Administration, Management and Leadership from Nottingham Trent University.
	**Margaret Ayers, Chief People Officer, University of the Arts London** Margaret Ayers is UAL's Chief People Officer, bringing extensive sector and Human Resources experience to her role. Margaret joined UAL in September 2026, following 8 years as Chief People Officer for Canterbury Christ Church University. She has previously held HR Director positions at several other universities, including University of Edinburgh, University of Kent and Queen Mary University. Margaret has made significant contributions to the wider HE sector as a Board member of the Equality Challenge Unit (now Advance HE); as the Chair of Universities Human Resources and through work for the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA). As Chief People Officer, Margaret is responsible for providing strategic leadership at organisational level on all aspects of People and Culture including Health and Safety. The Strategy supports a culture of accountability, fairness and collaboration, enabling the University to work towards its strategic vision through the collective talent of its staff.

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