



## **SAM WARBURTON IEng FIHIE**

### **Director of PMA Data Ltd**

Sam is dedicated to “providing quality data to the client”. He derives great satisfaction from delivering on time “and exceeding their expectations”. His company is, and has been, involved in a wide range of significant projects as far north as Peterhead, and - in respect of capturing data to underpin the concessionary fare scheme for elderly people, across Scotland. His explanation of how they deliver quality on time is that his staff are all dedicated and “really keen” on meeting the challenges of the work. A video survey running from 7.10 am and 4 - 7 pm can involve staff being at work at midnight.

Sam began work as an accident investigator for Highland Regional Council (HRC) in 1983, who he worked with until 1988. He then specialised in Development Control for the HRC in the Traffic Section. “Barriers exist to promotion”, he points out, and a good way forward was to take on the personal challenge of becoming a registered IEng. He emphasises that once anyone has the experience to consider registration, it can be very satisfactory to prove your competence not only to colleagues, but also to yourself. Sam found IHIE of help here. He would travel to IHIE workshops (he is based in Inverness) “to soak up the information”, and as a specialist in Development Control he also made use of meetings run by the Town Planning Institute. He found existing IEngs very willing to advise and help him to achieve ambition, and found that many engineers are “keen to focus on their experience and their advice”. His friends are mainly in the industry, and he finds everyone is “working together for the same ends” rather than being in hostile competition, and that IHIE provides a ready made network of potential connections who can be a real source of advice and information.

Sam moved out of Development Control to enter the private sector specialising in data provision, because he saw new opportunities for meeting personal goals, while providing a first class service.

His own career began when he won one of two CITB Scholarships to Inverness Technical College, where he moved onto a Civil Engineering course. He feels that today industry and the government especially does too little to emphasise that “engineers shape tomorrow” by making possible better roads, better transport, less pollution, and other crucial schemes. The financial and social research of civil engineering as a career are not there now, strongly enough, to attract good young people to enter a profession that requires hard, accurate work and personal application to qualify. “Short term vision” is endangering the future national built infrastructure. But, a positive thinker, and an optimist, Sam believes that the pendulum will swing back in line, as the public begins to see the negative consequences of running down the engineering professional so far.