

13 February 2017  
London, UK

## Keynote speakers announced for UKGCVA Conference 2018

*Greg Williams, Editor-in-Chief, WIRED joins speakers from CollectPlus and FanFactory*

The UK Gift Card and Voucher Association (UKGCVA) has announced the programme and speakers for its 2018 conference to be held at the Grange Tower Bridge Hotel, London, on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

Following the success of previous years, the 2018 conference marks the first time the event will take place over two days and is open to all attendants. The speaker list will offer a diverse range of views and expertise with panel discussions, workshops and Q&A sessions, to provide additional opportunities for delegates to become involved.

The keynote speaker is Greg Williams, Editor-in-Chief of technology magazine *WIRED*. Greg's session entitled *The Future is Now*, will focus on how the collision of bits and bytes is transforming the world. Dana Al Salem, Founder & CEO of FanFactory, will be speaking on how the industry can keep up with the buying habits of consumers. There will also be talks on innovations in payments in partnership with the Emerging Payments Association.

Professor Neil Ashworth, CEO of courier service CollectPlus, will be focusing on fulfilment and how retailers can deliver on their promise to consumers. The conference will be discussing the role of gift cards on a global platform, as well as how the industry can maintain and grow its B2B performance. Additionally, UKGCVA's Got Talent will be returning for its third year, allowing members to showcase their latest innovations.

The conference will announce the findings of the UKGCVA's 'Industry Insight' research, which will reveal the views of members in the gift card and voucher industry on important topics ranging from Brexit to innovation and GDPR.

**Gail Cohen, Director-General of UKGCVA, comments:**

“The conference is the key annual Gift Card Industry event of the year. Its continued growth and success has led to us extending it to over two days, allowing further opportunities for networking and discussion on the future of the industry. We are excited to have a such a strong and wide range of speakers and panellists, who will be discussing the challenges and opportunities 2018 presents. This will provide conference delegates, attending from all over the world, with an invaluable opportunity to gain practical insight to help their business and the industry as a whole. This year promises to be the best conference yet and I am looking forward to welcoming everyone in March.”

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### **About UKGCVA**

The UK Gift Card & Voucher Association ([www.ukgcva.co.uk](http://www.ukgcva.co.uk)) was established as a trade body in 1991 to represent the key players in what is today a £6 billion gift vouchers, cards and stored value solutions market. With over 85 members representing key retailers, issuers and suppliers the UKGCVA provides an information and reference point for the Gift Card & Voucher industry, and is at the forefront of the issues affecting the industry.

Its main objective is to provide a platform and infrastructure for the industry and to raise the profile and use of vouchers and gift cards within the UK, promoting the industry to consumers, businesses, government and other interested parties.

### **About UKGCVA Conference 2018**

The UKGCVA's annual conference is a key date in the industry calendar. Bringing together all stakeholders in the sector to learn, debate, promote and network, it is a day for members, non-members and organisations keen to know more about the industry. It is a platform to share new ideas, innovate and promote best practice with the UK gift card and voucher industry.

As the conference's lead sponsor, SVS is able to demonstrate its support for the UKGCVA and wider business community.

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