

CAMRA Beer Festival Financial Assessors

A number of changes have recently taken place in the Festival Financial Assessors team.

Our Chief Assessor of many years, Frances Lock, has stood down, and been replaced by Adrian Saunders, who has been an Assessor for over 10 years. In addition, we've had one resignation, which means we now need to recruit up to 3 more assessors.

Festival Assessors are part of an independent team with a clear primary remit:

- To ensure that Festivals run by, or in association with, CAMRA are financially viable and conform to CAMRA's principles and policies.

Background to Festival Business Plans and the role of the Assessor

- Festival Business Plans are completed and submitted for approval through CAMRA's online FOCUS system, which is progressively adding more functionality.
- When a plan is submitted, it is sent automatically to the relevant Assessor.
- The Assessor examines each FOCUS Business Plan submitted to them. They check that it complies with CAMRA's principles and policies and is financially viable. They then approve or reject it.
- A rejected plan must be re-submitted after making any necessary changes.
- The aim is to provide advice and support to a festival in order to ultimately approve its Business Plan.
- For festivals run in association with CAMRA, an agreement with the partner organisation is examined, and if suitable, a signed copy is requested and forwarded to CAMRA's Finance Team.
- Each Assessor covers small and medium-sized festivals in specific geographical areas, thus spreading the workload across the team.
- The Chief Assessor is responsible for large, regional and national festivals.

Person specification

- Assessors communicate with Festival Organisers via email, telephone, and occasionally video calls – so access to a PC, laptop or tablet with good internet access is vital.
- An approachable, friendly nature is crucial to the liaison aspect of the role.
- Ideally, a new Assessor will have been a Festival Organiser or Treasurer, thus having a good working knowledge of Festival Business plans. Members with other financial experience will also be considered.
- A full role description is currently being revised and will be supplied to applicants.
- Training and support will be provided.

To apply, please send a brief summary detailing why you'd like to be an Assessor, and your festival and/or financial experience to Adrian Saunders, Chief Festival Financial Assessor – chief.assessor@camra.org.uk. You can also email Adrian ahead of applying to find out more or call him on 07545 274883.

