

Meetpie
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Gilbertson takes over as Concerto chairman

New non-executive chairman replaces Mike Kershaw, who stepped down in March to concentrate on his new business

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Pictured: New Concerto chairman David Gilbertson

The Concerto Group has named David Gilbertson as its new non-executive chairman.

Gilbertson has taken a place on the board of the agency's group of event management services, and brings a career-long sector expertise in events and publishing, having led media organisations such as Informa and Emap.

He replaces Mike Kershaw, who stepped down from the role after 26 years with Concerto in March, after founding his own company, Kershaw Partners.

Group CEO Teresa-Anne Dunleavy said: "We are delighted to be bringing David's expertise into the business. He brings deep experience of chairing boards and guiding companies with a strong emphasis on value creation and is well placed to support our ambitious plans for the business."

The group, made up of 16 brands ranging from event management, venues and catering to entertainment and other event services, overhauled the business between 2012 and 2013, including selling its restaurants and events venue business Delfina Events and acquiring Midlands-based JD Parties.

Results for the financial year ending February 2014 showed a 68 per cent hike in group operating profit from £685k to £1.15 million, while Concerto's profit before tax increased by 123 per cent, from £369k to £822k.

Gilbertson added: "Concerto has an unmatched position in the field of special events organisation as an experiential creator, upscale venue provider and market-leading caterer. The range of its offerings enables it to continue to push boundaries and to distinguish itself through quality and scope. The senior team is driving an exciting growth agenda and I'm really pleased to be joining to support them on this journey."

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