



INTRODUCTION



With both a new Chief Executive Officer, Alasdair Coates, and Chairman coming in to post during the year, 2017 naturally saw a period of change, all underpinned by the establishment of our next Strategic Plan for 2018-2020.

However, what remained constant was the Engineering Council's ongoing efforts to ensure it operated a Register that was robust, fit for purpose and able to provide assurance to society of the knowledge, experience and commitment of our professionally registered engineers and technicians.

Collaboration among the engineering community is vital to meeting the challenges of the future and we continued to work closely with colleagues, particularly our Licensed Members and Professional

Affiliates, throughout 2017. From developing updated CPD Policy and Guidance, to providing online tools for technicians and Licensed Members, to a successful trial of External Quality Assurance for apprenticeships, the Engineering Council has had another productive year.

2018 is the Year of Engineering and we look forward to working with colleagues to promote engineering in all its forms. This year will bring many challenges and opportunities again, from our hosting of the

prestigious International Engineering Alliance (IEA) meeting to starting the important review of our UK Standard for Professional Engineering Competence (UK-SPEC). All this will be undertaken against a backdrop of continuing to develop our core systems and processes whilst maintaining and championing standards in the engineering profession.

**Professor Chris Atkin CEng FRAes
Chairman**

VISION:

That society continues to have confidence and trust in the engineering profession.

MISSION:

To maintain internationally recognised standards of competence and commitment for the engineering profession, and to license competent institutions to champion the standards for the deliverance of public benefit.

WHAT WE DO

- Develop and maintain common professional standards for engineering competence and commitment
- License professional engineering institutions to professionally develop and assess engineers and technicians against the common standards
- Maintain the national Register of professionally registered engineers and technicians

WHY WE DO IT

- To safeguard the public

HOW WE DO IT

- Self-regulation by peer review

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE ENGINEERING COUNCIL IN 2017

The Engineering Council's Strategic Plan 2015-2017 sets out its plans and priorities and shows how this activity supports the delivery of its vision and mission.

ENGINEERING COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2017

	2015	2016	2017
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Develop Understanding	Share Good Practice and Review	Support Delivery
TECHNICIANS	Establish Good Practice	Promote Good Practice	Improve the Product
INTERNATIONAL	Gather Evidence	Garner Support	Mobilise Support
CORE BUSINESS	Continual Improvement	Leading Practice	Evidential Improvement



1. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (SUPPORT DELIVERY)

Aim: Provide appropriate mechanisms that support professional engineering institutions in ensuring that the competence of potential and existing registrants is developed, maintained and enhanced.



2. TECHNICIANS (IMPROVE THE PRODUCT)

Aim: Support, share and promote good practice for the professional engineering institutions to establish pathways to registration, and increase the number of registered technicians; to improve the visibility of the value of technician registration and the associated products with employers and individuals.



3. INTERNATIONAL (MOBILISE SUPPORT)

Aim: Promote the benefits of competency based assessment aligned to UK-SPEC in order to support international mobility for professional engineers and technicians whether registered through the standard or the individual route.



4. CORE BUSINESS (EVIDENTIAL IMPROVEMENT)

Aim: Seek and promote excellence in the licensing of competent institutions through effective and efficient processes; to continue to develop, improve and digitise key processes.



1. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Engineering Council supports professional engineering institutions in ensuring that the UK's professionally registered engineers and technicians are the best they can be, by maintaining standards and supporting professional development.

ESTABLISHING AND SHARING GOOD PRACTICE

During 2017, the Engineering Council updated its Policy and Guidance on Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to reflect that recording CPD is mandatory for registrants (no later than 2019). Registrants will need current CPD records as the professional engineering institutions will undertake a random sample each year. Assuring conformity with CPD sampling will be part of the Licensing process.

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRAMEWORKS, TOOLS AND PROCESSES

In 2017 we consulted with professional engineering institutions about, and developed, an animation explaining how registrants can comply with CPD obligations and the different forms that CPD can take.





2. TECHNICIANS

The Engineering Council shares good practice between professional engineering institutions in making registration more accessible and working to increase the number of registered technicians.

INCREASING RETENTION AND VALUING TECHNICIAN REGISTRATION

Through the Engineering the Future collaboration, we completed work on the “Pathways to Professional Registration” online toolkit, helping Engineering Technicians develop their careers. The toolkit and promotional video will be launched in January 2018.

We ran a survey of registered technicians and employers, which received over 800 responses from technicians and close to 100 from organisations. This demonstrated that Engineering Technician registration is valued by individuals and their employers, although levels of concrete support provided for registration vary.

“The survey demonstrated that Engineering Technician registration is valued by individuals and their employers.”

EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS

We will offer quality assurance for the professional competence element of Trailblazer Apprenticeships at level 3 from 2 January 2018, to assure consistency and quality of assessment of professional standards across the professional engineering institutions. This follows a successful trial in autumn 2017 and will be reviewed in 12 months.



3. INTERNATIONAL

The Engineering Council ensures that its standards are globally recognised by promoting the benefits of competency based assessment, facilitating international mobility for engineering professionals.

ENHANCING MOBILITY AND RECOGNITION

We collaborated with European partners in an initiative led by the European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC) to explore potential to develop a set of Common Training Principles for European Engineers, in response to the European Directive on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications.





4. CORE BUSINESS

The Engineering Council promotes excellence in the licensing of competent institutions, while delivering effective and efficient processes around maintaining our Register and providing robust Governance. This is supported by developing and improving our Communications functions, digitising key processes.

LICENSING COMPETENT INSTITUTIONS

In 2017, our Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) considered a total of 11 licence reviews, one licence application, three interim reviews and four mutual exemption agreements. Our Licensing Manual and Professional Affiliate Approval Manual were both reviewed to ensure consistency.

The Royal Institution of Navigation and the Geological Society were approved as Professional Affiliates in October; four re-approval visits and an affiliate application from the Institute of Quarrying were also considered

during the year. The Engineering Council ran a Professional Affiliate Seminar in September 2017, to support this group of institutions.

A Volunteers Seminar was held in May which included analysis of trends from the Register and Annual Licensing Review, and an exercise on CPD sample record feedback. 100% of attendees agreed strongly or very strongly that the seminar was effective and the supporting materials were helpful. We also held a workshop on the professional review in October and a half-day

seminar in November, which allowed volunteers to share best practice on a range of topics and ask the Engineering Council staff questions on key updates.

“100% of attendees agreed strongly or very strongly that the seminar was effective and the supporting materials were helpful.”

MAINTAINING THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF PROFESSIONALLY REGISTERED ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS

In 2017 we completed a Register Phase 4 project, the benefits of which included improvements to process efficiency and the format of reconciliation anomaly reports, updates to submission file formats requested by institutions, and clearer audit trails. The project has also delivered clearer compliance with Regulation 7 (which governs reinstatement) and improved trend analysis on reinstatements.

We also began a programme of visits to licensed institutions to discuss the development of a Registrant Portal,

designed for registrants to view their Engineering Council records, the potential benefits and opportunities for collaboration this offers. The Registrant Portal was also highlighted at a Volunteers Seminar in November.

The end of year reconciliation processes were successful, with all 35 Licensed Members submitting through our registrant database, RegPlus.

In 2017 there were 9,963 new final stage registrations, up 0.26% compared to 2016. This was made

up of 2,417 new Engineering Technicians (the highest number ever), 1,254 new Incorporated Engineers, 6,271 new Chartered Engineers and 21 new ICT Technicians. Female registrants made up 10.66% (1,079) of all new final stage registrations in 2017, up from 8.57% in 2013.

PROVIDING ROBUST GOVERNANCE

The revised *Statement of Ethical Principles* document, produced with the Royal Academy of Engineering, was launched in July following review by a working group in 2016. A key change to the document is its extension to all those engaged in engineering at any level, who the Engineering Council and the Royal Academy of Engineering believe should be educated and encouraged to think and work in accordance with these ethical principles.

The Engineering Council's *Guidance on Code of Conduct* was updated to

make it clear that the revised *Statement of Ethical Principles* should be used as the basis of institutions' Codes of Professional Conduct.

Our *Disciplinary Procedures Guidance* was also reviewed, with the main changes requiring institutions to publish in their Regulations both their Code of Professional Conduct and a Disciplinary Procedure for dealing with any alleged breaches of the Code. Any member who resigns (or whose membership lapses through non-payment of fees or subscriptions) after a complaint against them has

been lodged with the institution, shall be deemed to remain in membership until completion of the disciplinary process.



COMMUNICATIONS

In October, the Engineering Council launched its online Partner Portal, replacing the previous extranet. The Partner Portal is a secure area for volunteers and professional engineering institution staff, populated with all relevant meeting papers, agendas, reports and other resources. All extranet users' accounts were automatically transferred and we received positive feedback from institution Heads of Membership.

We published the *Pocket Guide to Professional Registration 2017* and continued to maintain our suite of standard literature. This includes a range of guidance documents, leaflets on each of the registration titles and the *Student Guide to Professional Registration*, all of which are available online and in hard copy by request. We also produced a bi-monthly digital *Engage* newsletter, quarterly *Marketing and Communications Update* and biannual *HE Bulletin* throughout the year. Quarterly registration statistics and an Annual Statistics Report were published to our Licensed Members and Professional Affiliates.

We promoted International Women in Engineering Day in June with a specific webpage (supported by two

female Board Members) and also marked National Apprenticeships Week with a webpage including case studies from two Board Members, highlighting opportunities for apprentices. We continued to be active on social media and during 2017 the Engineering Council's Twitter account gained 3,311 new followers and engagement on our LinkedIn account resulted in more than 2,000 followers.

“The Engineering Council launched its online Partner Portal – a secure area for volunteers and professional engineering institution staff – replacing its previous extranet”

The Engineering Council held three workshops in 2017, covering Membership Retention and Registration Statistics, social media and a new starter workshop for staff new to professional engineering institutions. These were attended by 15 institutions, mainly by staff from Membership and Marketing functions, and received positive feedback.

A launch event for the revised *Statement of Ethical Principles* was well attended by members of the profession who heard from a panel of speakers, including Professor Chris Atkin CEng FRAeS (Chairman of the Engineering Council) and Professor Dame Ann Dowling OM DBE CEng FRS FEng (President of the Royal Academy of Engineering).



GOING FORWARD:

Taking forward the work done in 2017, the Engineering Council has developed a Strategic Plan 2018-2020, which will drive our work over the next three years.

The Strategic Plan sets out three aims, each of which will be delivered through three objectives:

1. PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFIT

Maintain the Engineering Council's position as an effective and well-respected regulator of the profession.

Ensure that no barriers exist for anyone appropriately qualified to become professionally registered.

Ensure that the Engineering Council is operationally sound and is recognised by stakeholders as delivering value for money.

2. MAINTAIN A GLOBALLY RECOGNISED STANDARD

Widen engagement with key stakeholders on the promotion of the Register and the Standard.

Safeguard and promote UK registration standards internationally.

Ensure that the needs and expectations of stakeholders are being met.

3. MEET FUTURE NEEDS

Ensure that the regulatory needs of the profession are being met.

Ensure that all regulatory functions remain fit for purpose and support the Standard.

Ensure that the engineering profession's pathways to registration remain appropriate for the needs of future stakeholders.

The Engineering Council expects lots of challenges and opportunities in 2018 including:

- Offering quality assurance for the professional competence element of Trailblazer Apprenticeships at level 3 from 2 January 2018.
- Launching the "Pathways to Professional Registration" online toolkit, helping Engineering Technicians develop their careers.
- Producing a webinar as part of our consultation with

stakeholders on the implementation of a risk-based approach to Licensing.

- Hosting the prestigious 2018 International Engineering Alliance (IEA) meeting in London from 24-29 June 2018.
- Continuing development of a Policy Statement on Initial Professional Development (IPD), with input from the professional engineering institutions.
- Implementing procedures compliant with the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) across the Engineering Council, including the operation of our Register.
- Championing and support programmes that promote diversity and inclusion across the profession.
- Supporting the Year of Engineering to promote the profession and inspire the next generation of engineers.



GUIDANCE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & TECHNICIANS



The Engineering Council has produced guidance material for professional engineers and technicians on their role and responsibilities in dealing with ethics, risk, security, sustainability and whistleblowing.

These publications are intended to guide and motivate and are all fully compatible with UK-SPEC. Each publication is available online and, in limited numbers, in print. Wallet cards, summarising the key points, are also available to support the risk, sustainability and security guidance materials. If you would like a copy of any of the publications or wallet cards, please contact us on marketing@engc.org.uk

INTERESTED IN PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION?

Find out more:

EngTech: www.engc.org.uk/engtech

ICTTech: www.engc.org.uk/icttech

IEng: www.engc.org.uk/ieng

CEng: www.engc.org.uk/ceng

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