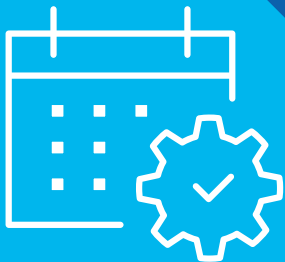




Annual Review 2020



Introduction from Chris Atkin



Any reflection on 2020 must include the highly unusual and challenging nature of this year, with a global pandemic affecting all organisations. These circumstances and the constant change they have created have inevitably had an impact, but we are proud to say that the Engineering Council has adapted to this and found solutions to deliver our core operations. In 2020, we have continued to progress towards the objectives set out in our 2018-2020 Strategic Plan, which – due to current circumstances – has been extended into 2021.

We have focussed on supporting the licensed professional engineering institutions (PEIs) through this challenging time, while maintaining our standards; this is the key balance for the Engineering Council to strike as an effective regulator. This support has included providing guidance on accreditation and advice on virtual professional review interviews, which look likely to continue post-pandemic. We recognise the significant pressures on the engineering community this year and, working with EngineeringUK, froze 2021 registration fees in acknowledgement of this.

Our response to key issues that affect the engineering profession and society at large continued in 2020, progressing the development of a competence framework for engineering professionals working on higher-risk buildings to support the new Building Safety regime, while working towards a Contextualised Register for competent professionals. The Engineering Council is pleased to have supported the development of the UK Cyber Security Council as a member of the Cyber Security Alliance, sharing our expertise on regulatory matters including governance and professional ethics.



We have maintained our governance arrangements, including holding a virtual AGM and EGM successfully. Changes to our Royal Charter, voted on at that EGM, are currently with the Privy Council for its approval. The move to new office premises and change of registered office was a critical project for this year and was delivered successfully, keeping all stakeholders informed.

We published our revised Standards in August 2020 as scheduled, following our periodic Standards Review, as well as an enhanced Course Search database. We responded to the most recent Washington Accord review and engaged extensively with Government and other regulators around the Brexit transition and new requirements.

In 2021, the Engineering Council will announce its new Strategic Plan, setting out our priorities for the next few years as shaped by key stakeholders. In our 40th year of operation, we will continue to maintain internationally recognised standards for the engineering profession, champion those standards through the institutions we license and hold the Register of individuals assessed as meeting them.

Professor Chris Atkin CEng FRAeS FREng
Chairman





Vision and Mission

What we do, why and how we do it

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



Maintain a globally recognised standard
Our aim to maintain a globally recognised Standard will be delivered through three objectives:



OBJECTIVE 4
Widen engagement with key stakeholders on the promotion of the Register and the Standard



OBJECTIVE 5
Safeguard and promote UK registration standards internationally



OBJECTIVE 6
Ensure that the needs and expectations of stakeholders are being met



Provide public benefit
Our aim to provide public benefit will be delivered through three objectives:



OBJECTIVE 1
Maintain the Engineering Council's position as an effective and well-respected regulator of the profession



OBJECTIVE 2
Ensure that no barriers exist for anyone appropriately qualified to become professionally registered



OBJECTIVE 3
Ensure that the Engineering Council is operationally sound and is recognised by stakeholders as delivering value for money



Meet future needs
Our aim to meet future needs will be delivered through three objectives:



OBJECTIVE 7
Ensure that the regulatory needs of the profession are being met



OBJECTIVE 8
Ensure that all regulatory functions remain fit for purpose and support the Standard



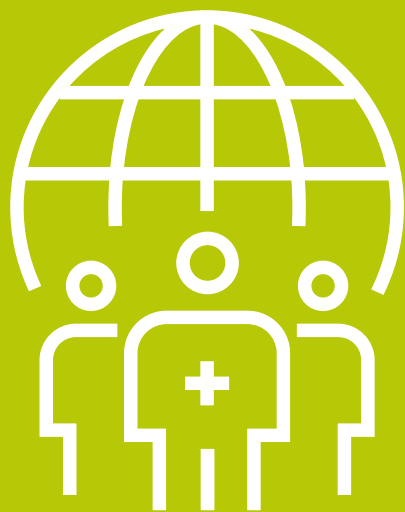
OBJECTIVE 9
Ensure that the engineering profession's pathways to registration remain appropriate for the needs of future stakeholders



Achievements in 2020

The Engineering Council took on work not included in our Strategic Plan in 2019, in response to new issues that arose on behalf of the profession. During 2020, these workstreams have been incorporated into existing objectives, as we continued to invest time and resource in these strategically important areas.





Provide
public
benefit



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

Work on the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (MRPQ) has intensified in 2020 as the transition period came to an end and the UK ceased to be part of the EU Customs Union and Single Market. We have worked closely with the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in our capacity as a competent authority, updating the professional engineering institutions we license. We have also published a webpage on the transition, to keep registrants and the engineering community informed of the latest position: www.engc.org.uk/brexit

Revisions to the Engineering Council's Charter and Byelaws were voted on and accepted at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) held remotely in July 2020.

To enhance the training, support and guidance we offer volunteers, we are developing an action plan based on our Volunteer Management Strategy.

Our Engineering Ethics Reference Group (EERG), run jointly with the Royal Academy of Engineering (RAEng), is now well established and working at a strategic level. Proposed priorities for the future have been presented to the Professional Engineering Committee and recommendations for action on enhancing the engineering profession's culture of ethical behaviour will be produced in early 2021.



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

Based on the engineering footprint agreed with the RAEng and EngineeringUK, we published 'Mapping the UK's Engineering Workforce'. This report was sent to all MPs, highlighting that 18% of the UK working population work in engineering and at least 15% of the working population of every region are in engineering jobs.

We applied accessibility principles to the revised Standards documents published in 2020, making them clearer and easier to use for all stakeholders.

Our first Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) workshop for PEI staff was held in November 2020 and we began discussions with PEIs on promoting provisions for career/carer breaks and CPD support available to those returning to work, as well as developing guidance on accommodating access needs in the professional registration process.





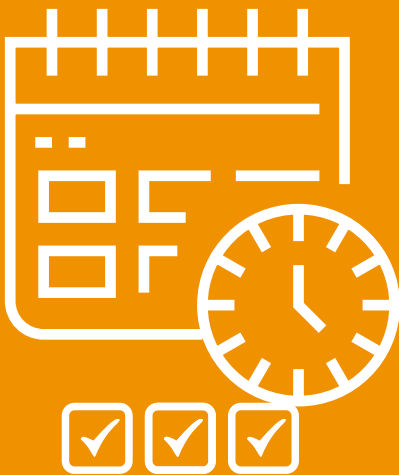
3. Ensure that the Engineering Council is operationally sound and is recognised by stakeholders as delivering value for money

Implementing our ICT Strategic Plan 2018-2020 has enabled enhancements to our IT systems and supported Engineering Council staff in successfully working remotely since March 2020. This included holding an Annual General Meeting (AGM), EGM and our usual calendar of Board, committee and Panel meetings online.

After a successful recertification against quality management standard ISO9001:2015, we continue to investigate other means of quality recognition, such as ISO 27001. We have continued to integrate quality management into our business planning and formalised business improvement processes.

We have made significant improvements to our people management policies and practices in 2020. This includes benchmarking our competence framework and formalising arrangements for remote working.





Maintain a globally recognised standard

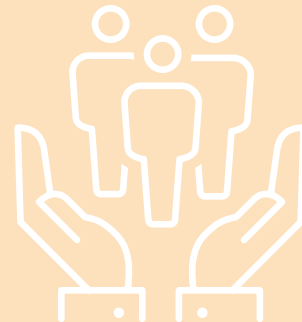
4. Widen engagement with key stakeholders on the promotion of the Register and the Standard

We continued to be an active participant in the Industry Competence Steering Group (CSG), established to take forward the recommendations of Dame Judith Hackitt's Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety. The final report of the CSG, *Setting the Bar*, was published in October 2020: www.engc.org.uk/buildingsafety

We worked with UKAS to further develop proposals for third party oversight of bodies undertaking assessment and re-assessment of the competence of individuals whose work impacts on building safety.

We established a Steering Group to take forward the development of a Contextualised Register to support the new building safety regime. This will facilitate engineering professionals becoming registered as competent to work on higher-risk buildings and is expected to be a project across multiple years.

We continue to support the development of Recognised Standards for specific sectors, including the Electrician Engineering Technician (EngTech) Standard produced by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and proposed standards from the work of the Cyber Security Council (CSC).





5. Safeguard and promote UK registration standards internationally

Our Board approved a proposal by IET for a pilot in offering professional registration, against UK-SPEC, in Mandarin. We anticipate the IET project, with representation from the Engineering Council, will begin in Q1 2021

Our 2017/8 Washington Accord Review was concluded with the Engineering Council being given a six-year authorisation until 2023, confirming that our accreditation standards and processes are substantially equivalent to the Washington Accord benchmark.

We became a founder member of ENGINET, a group of European regulators from Spain, Portugal, France, Italy and the Netherlands. ENGINET members will work towards mutual recognition based on the assessment of professional competence.

We coordinated a response to the BEIS consultation on the future of mutual recognition of overseas professional qualifications and worked alongside other professions in BEIS/Department for International Trade (DIT) advisory groups, providing input into forthcoming UK Trade Agreements.





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

We published the Approval and Accreditation of Qualifications and Apprenticeships (AAQA) Standard to support the recognition of a broader range of vocational and technical programmes, began updating the ICTech Standard to align with the revised UK-SPEC, and developed, tested and launched a unified public recognised course search and underlying qualifications database, replacing the earlier degree and technician qualifications databases.

Supporting the PEIs in delivering registrant messages, we ran workshops for PEI staff, published the 2020/21 Pocket Guide to Registration with updated profiles of all PEIs and Professional Affiliates and continued to extend our range of registrant case studies, making this as diverse as possible.

We continued to maintain and improve mycareerpath in response to user feedback and consulted PEIs on its future direction, reviewed our current Guidance Note on CPD and created a three-year CPD plan for the Professional Development Steering Group.





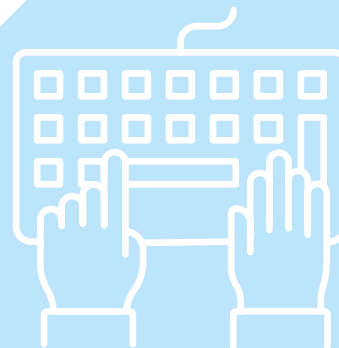
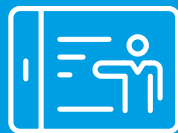
Meet future needs

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

We published our revised Standards, updated through a wide-ranging consultation process, in August 2020 and continue to support stakeholders as they implement these changes ahead of the transition deadlines.

We continued to work with university employers through the Technician Commitment and engaged with engineering employers as we started developing guidance on AAQA. We are consulting on the evolution of our employer programme as part of our new Strategic Plan.

We completed the review of our 'Guidance on Sustainability', for publication in early 2021, and started consultation on revisions to our 'Guidance on Risk'.



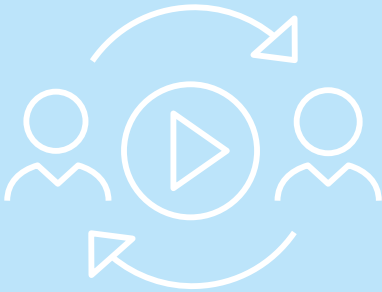


8. Ensure that all regulatory functions remain fit for purpose and support the Standard

Following the publication of our revised Standards, including learning from remote assessment, we have started to shape a programme to ensure our registration processes continue to fit with good practice and support open access to the profession, whilst maintaining the integrity of the Register.

We have successfully implemented our risk-based approach to Licensing, incorporating annual desk-based risk assessments and enhancing the effectiveness of our regulatory regime.

We have put in place an organisation-wide 'Register Programme' that brings together all related work, including the development of a publicly searchable Register and registrant portal.





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

We completed the first two phases of agency-led work to test out concepts relating to pathways to professional registration and titles. The next phase will be quantitative information gathering, including a physical workshop, when circumstances permit this being carried out.

We completed our Knowledge Profile Research Project in Q1 2020, with its findings accepted by RSC and QAC; this work will inform our work on understanding the future of assessment.

We published 'Mapping the UK's Engineering Workforce', analysing external Office for National Statistics (ONS) data to set out the size and make-up of the UK's engineering workforce, which forms the future pipeline of registrants.



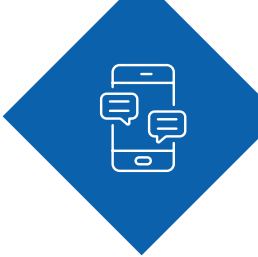


Going forward

We commenced work on our next Strategic Plan and held a consultation process, to help formulate the new plan starting from mid-2021, with the overall goal that the Engineering Council maintains its ability to meet the needs of the profession, key stakeholders and society.

Our objective is to maintain the public's confidence in the engineering profession through greater promotion of:

- the Engineering Council's regulatory work
- its leadership role within the engineering community, and
- an increase in a diverse and engaged registrant population.



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

Connect with us:

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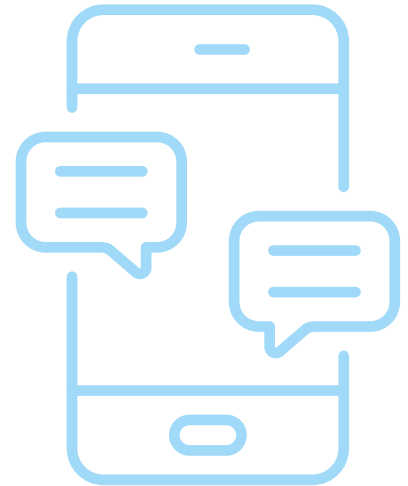
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