

# 2024 Annual Report of Congress

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This report covers Congress activities between the Institution's AGMs in June 2023 and June 2024.

Congress has held three on-line sessions during this period using the 'Viva Engage' discussion tool. As in previous years, it has sometimes been helpful to have topics further supported by arranging webinars with Q&A sessions with the relevant Vice Presidents and staff. In our most recent session, Congress has successfully returned to an alternative engagement model, sharing our ideas on, 'What will Chemical Engineering look like in the future?' using an interactive whiteboard. This session was still running at the time of writing.

The outputs from all the Congress discussions are shared with the Trustees and their feedback and response via the President are always valued.

Congress has considered a wide range of topics in 2023/24. These have included the governance of the institution, reviewing proposed changes to the Royal Charter and By-Laws, and proposing changes to the Congress Regulations to make the body better represent 'the voice of the membership'. Congress has looked towards the future of both the Institution and our profession, discussing Strategy 2028+ before its launch, the Technical Challenge proposed by the Learned Society Committee and as alluded to above, a look into the future well beyond 2028. Sustainability and sustainable engineering are recurrent themes in our collective thoughts and so Congress chose to review the IChemE's Climate Change Statement, to check its continuing relevance and appropriateness in a rapidly changing world.

In this year's elections, I have the pleasure of welcoming back five re-elected members and also five new Congress members. This brings the total membership to 27 (from 40 available seats) which is up two in total from last year. As agreed at our Annual Meeting in April 2023, efforts have been made to promote the work of Congress and the value of volunteering to be part of it.

It is part of Congress's role and duty to assess and report on the Institution's business strategy and accounts. In the last year, 'Strategy 2028+' has been launched as the successor to 'Strategy 2024', we are glad to see the continuing progress towards developing our Institution to serve our members and society. We commend the work of the Trustees and the Management in this continuing achievement and note the desire to keep focus on future needs. Congress looks forward to engaging in the development of the future strategy in collaboration with the Trustees and management over the coming year.

Congress has not met face to face since the June 2023 AGM, but a meeting will happen, starting the same day as this AGM.

Congress cannot function without the support of the IChemE staff at Rugby. The Volunteer Engagement Manager, Chelly Walsma, has been invaluable not just in enabling our on-line sessions, but all the other activity needed behind the scenes to keep Congress running. I also would like to acknowledge the commitment and support of the CEO, Yvonne Baker, and the other members of IChemE staff who have helped Congress in the last year. I look forward to welcoming newly elected Congress members and thank the outgoing Congress volunteers for all their support and contributions.

Rob Peeling  
Congress Chair