

17th October 2018

Mr K J Rivers CEng FIChemE FEI
President
Institution of Chemical Engineers
Davis Building
165-189 Railway Terrace
Rugby
Warwickshire
CV21 3HQ

Dear President,

This letter is to inform you of my intention to stand down as Deputy President.

As you are aware, it was never my intention, at this time in my career, to seek election. Following the EGM, a number of my peers sought a moderate Presidential candidate to lead the Institution – there was a fear that a backlash against a "traditional" IChemE candidate would lead to a more radical solution. Feeling that I would have something new and different to offer the Institution, I allowed my name to be put forward in full expectation that there were two safety nets in place- the Interim Candidate Committee would reject my nomination, and that the members would elect a more experienced candidate. As all are aware, neither of these happened.

I am a passionate chemical engineer. I am proud of our work and our contribution to society. But there are too many members, both UK and global who feel disenfranchised and unheard. I seek to represent these members and reunite the membership with its leadership. I am immensely proud and honoured to have been the first member to have been democratically elected to Deputy President.

Since the AGM, I have come to understand two important matters. Many of the ideas, ambitions and concepts that we had as members on the 'outside' (remote from the trustees) had requested, are already in motion and meet with many of our expectations. This is hugely encouraging and while there is still much to do, the direction of travel is excellent and the speed of change appropriate to an institution of our standing. The Institution is in good hands, and in better shape than is currently apparent to most of the members.

The second is deeply personal. Working with you, the former President, many of the Board of Trustees and the Chief Executive, I know now that I am not ready, sufficiently experienced, nor have I yet developed the wide range of skills required to be the calibre of President that I wish to be and that IChemE, its members and our society deserves. I have much to learn and this is one role I know you cannot learn 'on the job'. Whilst I desperately want to lead this Institution and the members that elected me, I recognise that I am not the right person to take the helm at this time.

This realisation came at the same time as my personal circumstances changed. In December, I will become a father for the second time- something that was simply not knowable at the time of the election nominations. This new dynamic in my home, while exciting, will create new pressures around my day to day working environment. Practically, I doubt that I will be able to volunteer the significant time that a President must provide the institution on a weekly basis, as well as support my family at home.

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This combination of circumstances mean that I believe it to be in the best interests of the Institution that I do not take up the role of President from the AGM next year. I ask that you communicate this to the Board of Trustees at our next Board of Trustees Meeting on 1st November, so that a new President can be found in good time.

I still believe I have a lot to offer the Institution, so I ask if I may continue my work as Deputy President until the next AGM. In particular, I look forward to delivering the first meetings of Congress, and helping to improve member communication, as well as supporting my successor in the lead up to their Presidential year. Whilst I understand that this may lead to my departure from the Board of Trustees from the next AGM, I hope that some way can be found for me to continue to contribute to the great work that is in progress.

I commit to all who supported me, the wider membership, the Trustees, you as our President and my successor, my wholehearted commitment to making sure that this excellent Institution is led by members, supporting members and serving society as long as I am a trustee and member of this Institution.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. L. Rivers', written in a cursive style.

Deputy President