



# Council Report

22 February 2024





## CEO Report

Greetings and a warm welcome to the February 2024 Council Report.

This time last year, I was able to share with you what a success 2022 had been and therefore I am delighted to once again let you know that we had an even better 2023. Our membership numbers grew and are higher than they have ever been and we saw more members than ever before taking the route to Chartership through CIBSE. Our knowledge and guidance output has once again been extremely high, and our place and voice at the 'Policy Table' as an influencer has never been more impactful. Our commercial businesses also saw a record year and their contribution, combined with the increase in membership and our other activities, saw 2023 as the highest revenue year CIBSE has ever experienced.

In December, CIBSE President Adrian Catchpole and I had the privilege of representing CIBSE and the CIBSE UAE Region at COP28 in Dubai. Adrian had a number of speaking slots at the event and both he and I were reassured by how well CIBSE is recognised as a global leader in this sector – we were regularly met with the comment that we represented an institution that 'significantly boxes above its weight'. Our involvement marked a significant milestone as it was the first time CIBSE has been showcased at a COP event. Our presence in the prestigious Blue Zone allowed us to bring CIBSE's world-leading expertise on embodied carbon and climate resilience to the centre stage. Through a series of well received presentations, we contributed actively to the discussions, emphasising our commitment to advancing sustainable practices on a global scale.

Those of you who attended the *President's Awards Dinner* in October will know what a glittering celebration it is of the outstanding volunteers and contributors we have within the CIBSE community. So I wanted to draw your attention to the fact that the Nomination Process for Gold, Silver and Bronze medals is now open. Details on the proposals can be found [here](#) and I encourage you to look within your communities to single out those who represent CIBSE and its networks at an exceptional level.

Across our diverse divisions and networks, there has been a significant amount of activity. The Society of Light and Lighting (SLL) illuminated Leeds Minster in collaboration with Light Night Leeds, engaging in lighting workshops and hosting the Ready Steady Light competition. Teresa Aguilar Carrasco earned the SLL Young Lighter 23 award, showcasing creativity in lighting design.

The Society of Public Health Engineers (SoPHE) celebrated its Annual London Dinner, recognising outstanding contributions and supporting charitable initiatives. The Society of Digital Engineering (SDE) held its fifth awards ceremony, introducing new accolades, and is gearing up to launch professional membership grades. The Institute of Local Exhaust Ventilation Engineers (ILEVE) emphasised good air quality through its quarterly newsletter. The Society of Façade Engineering (SFE) organised worldwide events, awards ceremonies, and broadened its hubs. CIBSE Patrons continue to

be a strong supporter of a number of core initiatives, assisting our plans for enhancing knowledge, fostering talent, promoting collaboration, and strengthening networking.

Regional activities, from seminars on the Building Safety Act to annual dinners, reflect our commitment to local engagement. International visits, such as those to CIBSE Hong Kong and the UAE, support global partnerships, promoting collaboration in sustainable building practices and emphasising CIBSE's increasing worldwide engagement beyond its UK origins.

December saw a truly global time for CIBSE. In ANZ, young engineers were celebrated, and in Ireland, the Silver Medal was awarded to Pat Lehane. The Young Engineers Network (YEN) hosted a vibrant Gala in Newcastle, the UK hosted the rapidly growing Build2Perform exhibition, the UAE delivered their highly successful CIBSE UAE Excellence Awards and CIBSE Hong Kong ran their third annual CIBSE HK Awards, focusing on actual, measured performance outcomes in the built environment.

Our Fellows Network is taking the initiative, organising events in Scotland and a Masterclass with the recently elected President of the British Council for Offices, Despina Katsikakis. This dynamic flow of activities across divisions and networks demonstrates CIBSE's commitment to innovation, collaboration, and advancing the built environment.

CIBSE's upcoming 2024 events are set to be transformative for our industry. The *Building Performance Awards* on 29 February 2024, will spotlight groundbreaking achievements. The *CIBSE Technical Symposium* on 11-12 April 2024 will explore *Fit for 2050 – Delivering buildings and defining performance for a net zero built environment*, showcasing cutting-edge research and networking opportunities. In May and September 2024, we will be launching two groundbreaking conferences aligning with industry standards and sustainability goals.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this report, I am delighted to share that CIBSE membership saw an increase in members in 2023 rising from 20,168 to 21,284 members in total, delivering a growth of 5.53%. We achieved the Engineering Council Licence for the Higher-Risk Buildings Register, setting competences for built environment professionals. Our Apprenticeship and End Point Assessment team had a robust year, reviewing 288 applications and in 2024, we are enhancing CPD with mandatory building safety and sustainability activities.

As part of this year's Presidential Theme, we relaunched the STEM Ambassador programme, aiming to create a minimum of 10 new ambassadors in each of the regions, to promote and drive STEM engagement. In the period from October 2023 to January 2024, there was a 7.53% increase in STEM Ambassadors. Also, as part of the Presidential Theme, we are close to launching the Chartered Organisations programme and look forward to launching this within the next couple of months. We remain committed to providing tailored support, enhancing engagement and fostering growth within our CIBSE membership.

Our media presence remains robust, actively positioning CIBSE as the authoritative voice in building service engineering. Celebrating a milestone, our LinkedIn followers reached 40k in December 2023, demonstrating significant engagement on our top-performing platform. Additionally, our website continues to gain presence, attracting over 592,000 users globally over the past year.

In 2023, the CIBSE Journal continued to showcase our events, from the *Young Engineers Awards* to the *Building Safety* conference. The December edition featured CIBSE Hong Kong, continuing its regular focus on our non-UK regions and additionally it highlighted our Benevolent Fund's 90th year. With an average of 27,000 monthly visitors, the CIBSE Journal's website remains a key resource and a key voice in our sector.

Our latest knowledge updates, AM4.1 on security engineering strategy and the DE1 pre-qualification questionnaires, enhance industry practices. Upcoming knowledge releases include guides on electricity, embodied carbon, ground source heat pumps, and digital engineering series revisions.

In 2023, CIBSE Training excelled and saw its most successful year to date. Upcoming courses on *Commissioning Code M: Commissioning Management* and *Part O - Overheating* and mandatory CPD, reflect CIBSE's commitment to sustainability and building safety.

We continue to increase our expert trainer reach and, with the popularity of the Building Safety Act courses, we now have a pool of six trainers. In 2024, 13 additional trainers will broaden our offerings, covering AI, law, carbon net zero, and more. Our Balham-based training is growing but still remains at 30% of what it was post-pandemic. However, online sessions remain highly popular due to their efficiency, and reduction of travel time and carbon footprint.

CIBSE's commitment to the building safety agenda remains unwavering, with a continued dedication to its development. We are actively shaping the landscape by contributing significantly to the formulation of the UK Net Zero Carbon Building Standard, building on our role as pioneers in climate change and sustainability responses. Our influence extends globally through meticulous coordination of CIBSE input to British, European and International Standards via the British Standards Institution (BSI).

CIBSE's technical team continues to provide support to Standing Committees, Special Interest Groups, Working Groups, Regions, and Knowledge Projects, fostering collaborative growth. Overseeing the technical programme for our flagship events like *Build2Perform Live* and *Technical Symposium*, underscores CIBSE's commitment to knowledge dissemination. Consultation responses serve as vital avenues for all members to contribute substantially, enhancing our governmental influence. In collaborative efforts, we work diligently to develop industry guidance in alignment with the Building Safety Act and the joint industry plan, partnering with professional organisations and the CIC on Carbon Zero.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to mention the impending retirement of CIBSE's Chief Technical Officer, Dr Hywel Davies and I want to express my gratitude for the significant and unique contributions that he has made to our organisation over the years. His role has been instrumental in shaping CIBSE's path forward, and his knowledge and insight have proven to be powerful tools for our entire community. I wish him a fulfilling and rewarding retirement and we thank him for his outstanding service and commitment.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone for their unwavering support and commitment within the CIBSE community, contributing significantly to achieving CIBSE's objectives.

Best, Ruth

Ruth Carter  
CIBSE Chief Executive Officer