



## UK Weighing Federation

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### President's Report 2022

Welcome everybody, it's great to be together in the same room again for our AGM. We have a packed agenda today, which is a good reflection of the amount of activity happening across our industry and within the UKWF at the moment.

Before I begin my report, I would like to inform you that I have been asked by the Board to continue as President for another year. I'm honoured to have been asked, it has been a pleasure to serve the UKWF over the past 2 years and I looking forward to working with the Board, and with all of you, again over the next 12 months.

As we enter the second quarter of the year, we'll see a number of changes in the industry including the NMO leaving the market at the end of April. The UKWF team has focused on strengthening our relationship with OPS&S over the past 12 months, and it was through this new partnership that we were able to be consulted on these changes and receive the latest information first hand which we could in turn pass onto our membership. Not only does this mean UKWF members are the first to know about key changes but we were also able to share industry concerns directly with OPS&S and this will continue over the coming months as the situation evolves.

While the NMO leaving the market is far from ideal with members needing to move their certificates to different approved bodies, it will mean that market forces will take over and competition among suppliers will lead to a number of alternative options emerging. As some of you may know the UKWF has thrown it's hat into the ring and we'll be sharing more on the new independent body later today.

We've worked hard to further increase the UKWF profile this year and this has resulted in a number of new members joining us and some past members re-joining which is great to see. I would extend a warm welcome to those new or prospective members who are here today. We've become more active on social media and developed new channels of communication with our external stakeholders and with you, our members. Notably, the technical webinars with guest speakers are very popular, please let Ian or Grace know if you have any topics you would like us to cover in the upcoming dates.

While we've completed lots of work to revamp the UKWF brand and it's on-going activities, it is vital for us to develop a set of priorities and focus areas alongside a clear future plan and vision. As a result, the UKWF board met for a very constructive SWOT analysis session back in February where we identified the following focus areas.

Firstly, Membership - this will be headed up by Marina Campbell and will focus on how we attract new members and meet the requirements of existing members. It will aim to

review and create additional member benefits and ensure that we are maximising the potential of our partnerships.

Secondly, the Apprenticeship Scheme –driven by Kevin Cartwright. The scheme was paused by the provider due to Covid but we are looking forward to Kevin pushing this forward now and getting the scheme live so our industry can begin to using it.

Thirdly, our relationship with Trading Standards – This is a project driven by Mark Clifford and is an important area of focus which has long been a hot topic for members. We strongly believe that the UKWF and CTSI are on the same side and can work more efficiently together to benefit our industry. We've approached the CTSI to discuss a stronger collaboration and want to find ways to build relationships with Trading Standards at a national and local level that will make our interactions more fluid and mutually beneficial.

Next is OPS&S and the closure of NMO – this will be headed up by myself. As the NMO exits the market, we will continue to work with OPS&S on behalf of members to drive the changes our industry wants to see and look to take advantage of the new world beyond the NMO.

UKWF Website - Tom Marren is going to drive a long-awaited website update and refresh to reflect the new-look UKWF brand. While we're not looking to create a completely new website, there is a great deal we can do to update images and content across the site to make it more user-friendly.

Finally, our New and Independent Approved Body  
As we've said in our previous communications, with the NMO leaving the market, we've taken the opportunity to create a new Conformity Assessment Body that will not only meet the needs of UKWF members, but also other manufacturers that may require Module D (Self- verification). The new approved body will be set up as a separate legal entity, independent of the UKWF, with its own management structure and team.

I want to thank my fellow Directors on behalf of the Federation for their engagement in this and for taking an active role in delivering the objectives we've set. We all give up our time freely to work on behalf of our members, it is a huge commitment which is made solely for the good of the industry and our Federation, and I am incredibly grateful for their time, energy and dedication.

In June we are hosting CECIP's General Assembly in London – a three-day event running from 22 to 24 June. There is a number of opportunities for UKWF members to get involved including the Legal Metrology Open Seminar and River Thames boat trip on Thursday 23 June and the General Assembly and Gala dinner on Friday 24 June. This is set to be a really great event and as we are hosting this year, we're able to subsidise UKWF members and offer you exclusive discount rates. To summarise again, the two attendance options are:

Thursday 23 June and Friday 24 June together which will give you access to the Legal Metrology Group Seminar followed by an evening boat trip and cocktails on the River Thames aswell as an invite to the General Assembly on Friday afternoon followed by a spectacular Gala dinner at Cutlers Hall – all for just £120 plus VAT per person.

OR ALTERNATIVELY you can attend just the General Assembly on the afternoon of Friday 24th June and the Gala Dinner for only £50 plus VAT person, which is (even if I say so myself) a real bargain!

There is more information on the CECIP website and for information on how to book or if you have any questions please check the UKWF Website.

Before I finish, I would like to briefly mention the work of our UKWF Officers Ian, Chris, and Grace. They are a formidable team and have done an outstanding job for the Federation over the past year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work, dedication and support that provide me and the board on a daily basis. We are lucky to have such a strong knowledgeable team and the Federation would not be where it is today without them.

I hope you will agree that the UKWF is in great shape and it's an exciting time to be part of the federation. As always, creating a strong and united voice and combining our talents is key to our success and if you would like to get involved, please do come and speak to me so we can work together to benefit all of our members and the wider weighing industry.