

UKWF Presidents Report

A very warm welcome to all of our members. What a fantastic turnout! We really appreciate everyone for taking times out of their busy day-to-day work to be here, participate and support the work of the Federation.

I just want to take a moment to reflect on what we've been up to over the past six months, since we all met in York. Because it's been both busy and incredibly rewarding to see some of our hard work pay off.

We'll be hearing from Kevin later in the meeting about our training offer – but I'm excited to say that we've had some really strong interest from our partners and CECIP, as well as overseas weighing associations, in our programme. We're working on creating an offer for international partners who want to access UKWF training. It's a great commercial opportunity for us that we hope will generate new income that we can invest in supporting our own member businesses and furthering the aims of the Federation.

Kevin will also share plans about our next Legal Metrology Course, as well as the development of the apprenticeship scheme.

Our CTSI partnership continues to grow. We've been collaborating with them on a new report to highlight the importance of legal metrology in society which we hope to share with you soon. We've also continued to offer CTSI Open Days, facilitated by UKWF member companies, to improve the quality of our regulatory enforcement.

Our Technical Officer Ian and Comms Officer Katie have also been busy getting to grips with the Government's new Product Safety and Metrology Bill so that we can keep members informed. They'll give you a full update later – but Ian, Katie and I spent yesterday afternoon meeting with officials at the Department for Business and Trade yesterday – and we feel like there's finally appetite in Government for the kind of things that would help our businesses, like regulation evolving with new technologies and potentially a better chance of closer alignment with European regulation.

And so - to the next six months...I'm really looking forward to our Roundtable session this afternoon. The Board have been working on a new strategic plan for the Federation. We're hoping that will be launched in January and set out our ambitions for what we want to achieve, as well as how we will continue to support our members. At the roundtable we'll be seeking your feedback on some of the proposals we'd like to include – particularly on moving towards self-regulation – so that we can ensure your views are represented in our new plan.

Finally, what a fantastic pair of guest speakers we have here today! I'd like to Welcome Chris Corkan from Make UK. Who is here to tell us about what's happening across the UK Manufacturing sector, and where some challenges and opportunities lay. He'll also be explaining the member benefits all UKWF members can access as part of the Federation's MAKE membership – as well as introducing how MAKE UK can support individual businesses and its offer there.

And I also want to thank Iain Hoey for joining us. Iain is Principal Trading Standards Officer at Aberdeen City Council and an expert on metrology. He and our very own Ian will be recreating a panel discussion they had at the CTSI conference on weights and measures regulation – which I

know will be a fantastic and interactive session.

I just wanted to say thanks again to everyone for coming today. The Federation is only as strong as the support we get from our members. Your presence and participation is much appreciated by us all. If anyone would like to get more involved in any of our work, please do ask me.

Tom Marren
UKWF President