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So, 18 months on and I finally get to present my Presidents report in person - a year and a half of video conferences and muted microphones, it really is great to be here with you all. I hope you are enjoying the day so far and the opportunity to chat face to face, catching up on the last year and a half!

As you'll hear later today, we certainly have lots of challenges ahead as an industry –the on-going repercussions of Brexit, type approval transitions, the NMO's withdrawal as a Conformity Assessment Body, Covid, labour and product shortages and of course the government's love of imperial measures.

I am looking forward to discussing all of this with you today and working out how we navigate our way through each one as a united industry, facing the challenges together as a Federation.

Amid these difficult times, the UKWF team have driven the Federation forward and achieved great things regardless. We have modernised, rebranded and restructured and are in great shape to tackle these challenges head-on, ensuring the best outcomes for our members.

In my last Presidents report for the AGM, I wrote about the changes we have implemented and I would like to reiterate them here in person.

Back in 2017, the UKWF Board had a vision of creating focus groups tasked with improving the UKWF in three key areas - Skills, Quality, and Marketing. When I became President in 2020, I could see we had already made good progress in all three areas but there was much still to do.

The Quality focus group had worked towards raising standards with the introduction of ISO certification requirement, but support was still needed for some members to achieve this. The Skills focus group had started on its journey of building an apprenticeship scheme for our industry and while the board were trying to get it off the ground, they were running into barriers at every turn. In addition, the Marketing focus group were finding it challenging to have the time and skillset to promote the Federation successfully.

As a board member prior to becoming President, I believed in all three of these goals and one of my first objectives as President was to drive forward the work each group had already done. Equally, I wanted to modernise the UKWF brand and improve its perception within the membership and with key stakeholders. I felt strongly that the UKWF needed to evolve to provide a clear united voice for the weighing industry that reflects the views of all members.

Nearly 18 months later and here we are at our Regional Meeting after what has been a hugely productive period for the Federation. We have worked to increase the skill level in the weighing industry and finally completed the apprenticeship scheme. We have only been held back from embedding it due to Covid and hope to make it available to all members in 2022.



We have worked to raise quality in the industry by focusing on our ISO membership criteria and assisting those members who want to become ISO registered by putting training and admin through a vetted provider in place.

We have transformed the way we communicate with members and stakeholders with the appointment of Grace as our Comms Officer. We now have more channels of communications to make sure members are receiving the latest information and have access to updates, such as our quarterly newsletters, monthly activity updates, the introduction of social media channels with regular industry specific content, regular news stories, video blogs from our Technical Officer, and quarterly technical webinars with special guests.

We have developed and maintained relationships with key stakeholders in government, raising the profile of the Federation with regular meetings with Trading Standards, OPSS and NMO that enable us to have input and first sight of key announcements. We were influential in developing and driving forward the transition process from EU to UK Type Approval Certificates and were first to be consulted over the UKCA mark and changes to the Conformity Assessment Bodies at OPS&S. We have also developed new partnerships with other trade bodies including GAMBICA to further raise our profile and bring added benefits to UKWF members.

And alongside this, we have modernised the UKWF brand with our new logo to reflect all of this transformation over the past 18 months.

The UKWF team – Ian, Chris, and Grace – have collectively done an excellent job and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and dedication. The Federation would not be where it is today without them, and the support they show me, and the board daily is hugely appreciated. The board have also been extremely active and instrumental in creating change this year, we all give up our own time freely to work on behalf of our members and I want to thank my fellow Directors on behalf of the Federation.

I hope you will agree that the UKWF is in great shape. We will continue to work hard to promote and further improve our Federation. Creating a strong united voice and working together as an industry is key to a respected and successful Federation. If you would like to be involved or if you have any comments (good or bad), please do come and find me after the meeting and we can work together to benefit all our members and the wider weighing industry.