



 Engineering Council

40 YEARS of engineering standards

# Annual Review 2022



## INTRODUCTION CHRIS ATKIN

**2022 marked the start of the Engineering Council's next 40 years of setting and maintaining standards, following its incorporation by Royal Charter in November 1981. The maintenance of standards for public benefit continues to be at the core of the Engineering Council's purpose as we move forward. The most recent Ipsos MORI Veracity Index shows engineers are second only to nurses as the most trusted profession, with 87% of those polled trusting engineers to tell the truth: a reputation we as a profession must continue to earn.**

During 2022 we have published our 'Engineering Ethics' report (jointly with the Royal Academy of Engineering) and re-initiated our Registration Review, working to ensure our products and services remain relevant to an increasingly diverse future workforce of engineers and technicians. Continuing to facilitate the mobility of professional engineers, we signed Admissions Pathway Agreements with two Spanish



professional bodies, agreed a new online applications process for European Engineer (EUR ING) status and provided signposting for refugee engineers. We have delivered a framework for and guidance on Recognised Standards, which fully or partially meet the requirements of our core UK Standard for Professional Engineering Competence and Commitment (UK-SPEC), including updates to our Regulations for Registration (RfR). One of these Recognised Standards is the Higher-Risk Buildings (HRB) Standard, a competence framework to support the new Building Safety regime; we have worked closely on this with relevant professional engineering institutions (PEIs) and expect to receive the first applications for licence extensions in early 2023.

While pandemic-related uncertainties did not entirely disappear in 2022, the Engineering Council has continued to operate effective flexible working arrangements, maintaining our governance arrangements and core functions through a hybrid model of in-person and remote meetings. Working Groups on Diversity & Inclusion and reasonable adjustments to the professional review process were established, as was an organisational Business Continuity Team. Business processes have remained fully operational, assured by our continued certification to the ISO 9001: 2015 quality standard.

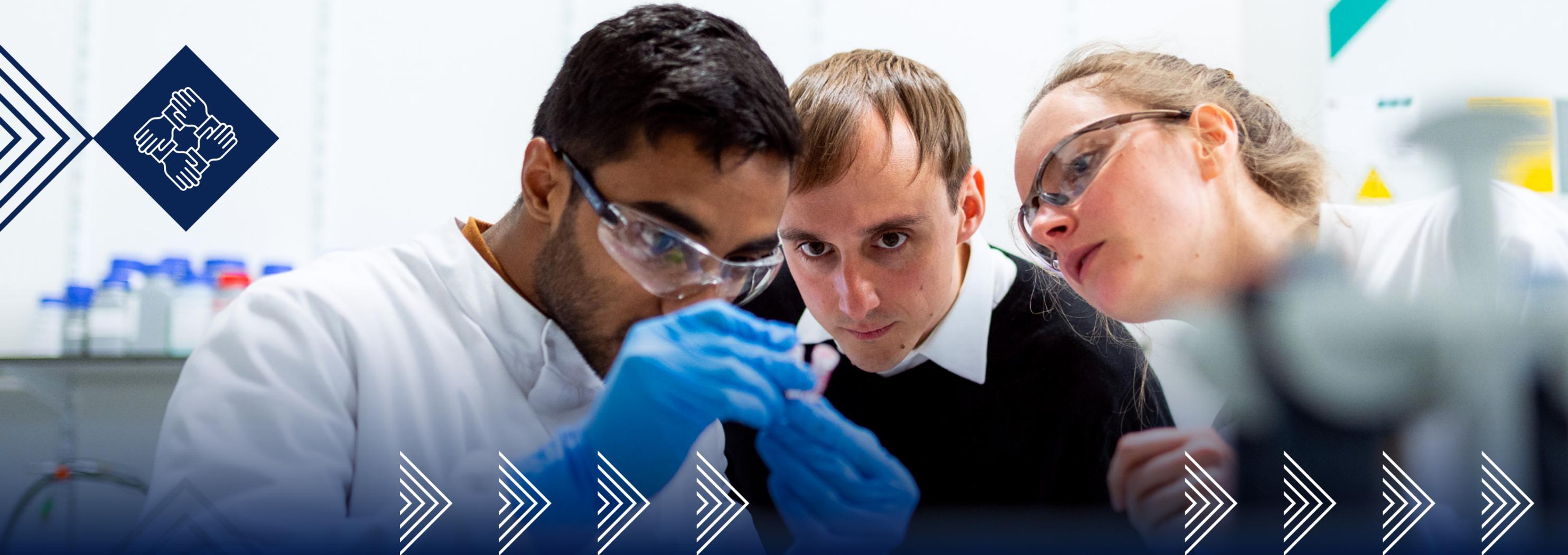
There are around quarter of a million professionally registered engineers and technicians on the Engineering Council's Register, all of whom have voluntarily come forward to have their competence and commitment peer reviewed. Professional registration is a crucial means of maintaining society's trust in the profession, while embedding and enhancing a culture of ethical, sustainable behaviour among the engineering community.

The overarching goal of our 2025 Strategy 'Advancing Regulation' (published in July 2021) is 'To maintain the public's confidence in the engineering profession through wider promotion of the Engineering Council's regulatory work, its leadership role within the engineering community and a greater, more diverse and engaged registrant population'. This Strategy informs and structures our subsequent strategic outcomes, against which this Annual Review reports our key achievements during 2022.

As I come towards the end of what has been an extremely rewarding term as Chair of the Engineering Council, assuring the competence and commitment of engineering professionals, and the recognition of our standards for the profession domestically and internationally, is one of the most important tasks I have been able to contribute towards.



Professor Chris Atkin CEng FRAeS FREng  
**Chair**



## VISION AND MISSION

WHAT WE DO,  
WHY AND HOW  
WE DO IT

### VISION:

That society continues to have confidence and trust in the engineering profession.

### MISSION:

To maintain internationally recognised standards of competence and commitment for the engineering profession, and to license competent institutions to champion the standards for the deliverance of public benefit.

### WHAT WE DO

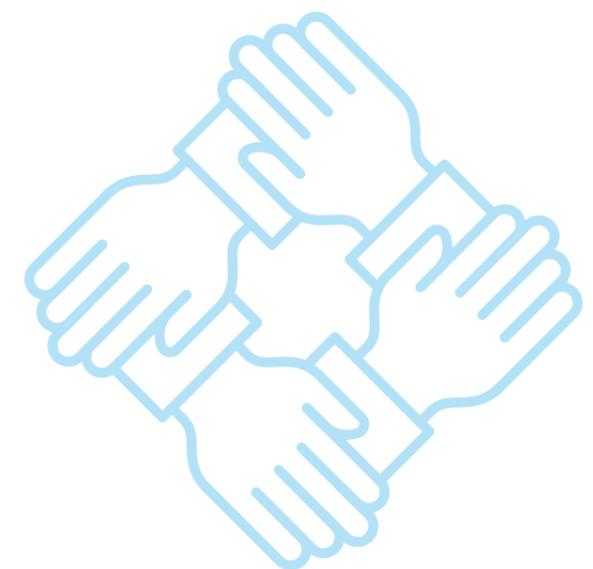
- Develop and maintain common professional standards for engineering competence and commitment
- License professional engineering institutions to professionally develop and assess engineers and technicians against the common standards
- Maintain the national Register of professionally registered engineers and technicians

### WHY WE DO IT

- To safeguard the public

### HOW WE DO IT

- Self-regulation by peer review





# ENGINEERING COUNCIL STRATEGY

We published our 2025 Strategy, 'Advancing Regulation' in July 2021.  
The goal of that Strategy is:

To maintain the public's confidence in the engineering profession through wider promotion of the Engineering Council's regulatory work, its leadership role within the engineering community and a greater, more diverse and engaged registrant population.

Our 2025 Strategy is focussed around four key themes:



**DIVERSITY & INCLUSION**  
To support, develop and encourage a more diverse and inclusive profession



**DIGITAL INNOVATION**  
To support a more digitally innovative profession



**INTERNATIONAL**  
To maintain, develop and promote an internationally respected standard



**ENGINEERING & SOCIETY**  
To strengthen the sustainable and ethical core of the engineering profession

Our two Strategic Enablers, which inform and structure our subsequent strategic outcomes:

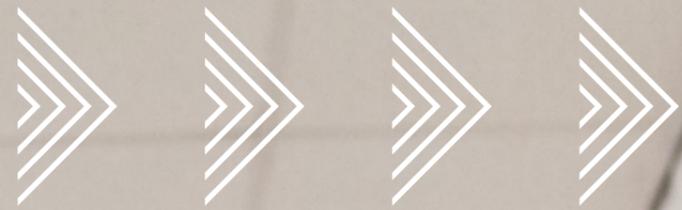


**OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE**  
Ensuring that we maintain and enhance an agile and efficient operations model



**STRATEGIC PARTNERING**  
Ensuring that we maintain and enhance key strategic alliances with a range of important stakeholders

The Engineering Council acts as the 'Council of Engineering Institutions', impartially representing the community of professional engineering institutions and convening expert opinion about competence, commitment and professional development.



## DIVERSITY & INCLUSION ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022



### To support, develop and encourage a more diverse and inclusive profession

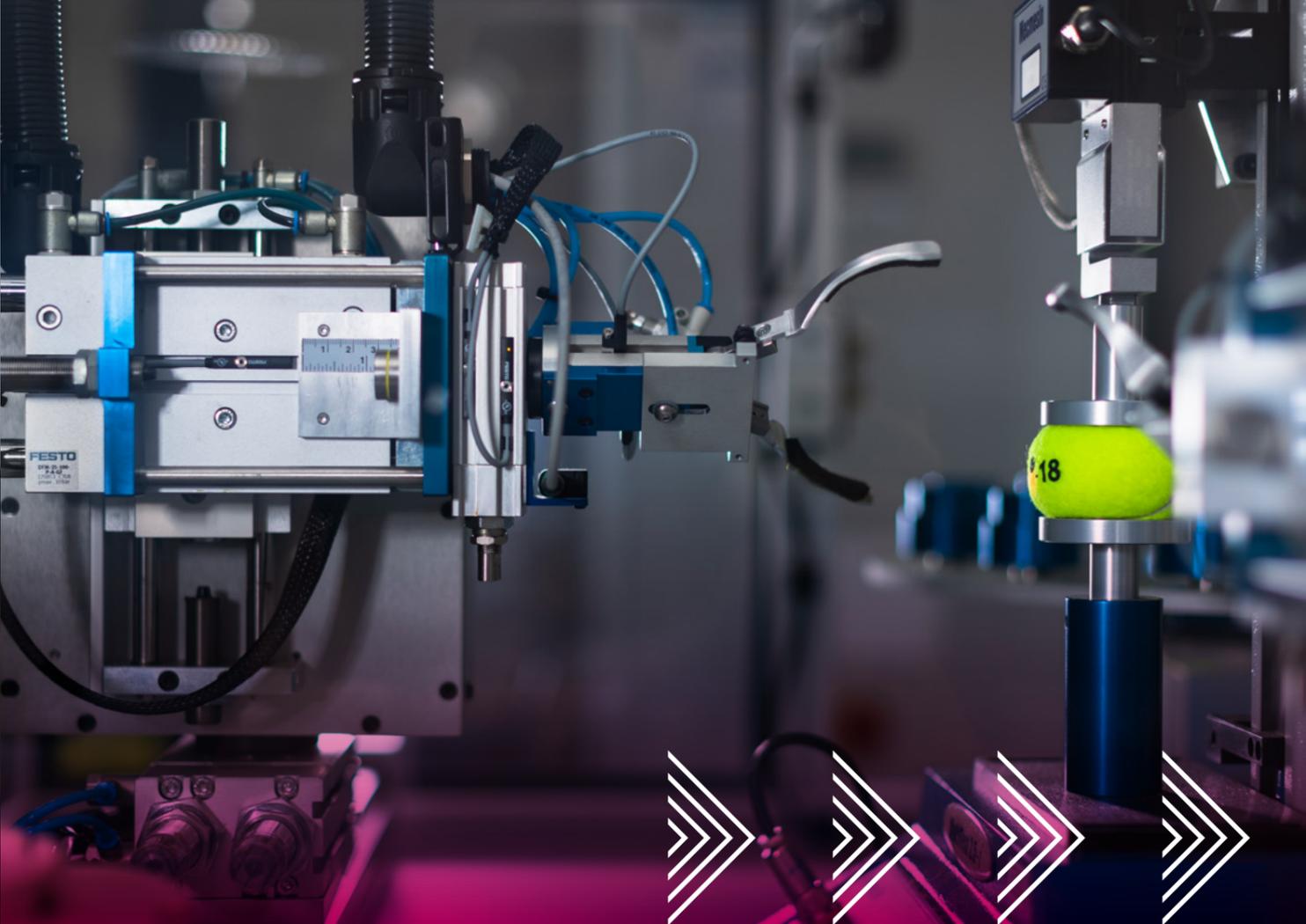
To identify and mitigate potential barriers to professional registration for neurodiverse applicants, we have set up a Working Group on reasonable adjustments to the professional review process; this will consider guidance for institutions on supporting applicants.

In response to the war in Ukraine and to the needs of refugees more widely, we have set up signposting information on mobility and recognition for professional engineers, on behalf of the engineering community.

Following the introduction of the Approval and Accreditation of Qualifications and Apprenticeships (AAQA) standard, which enables a broad range of education programmes to be recognised through approval and accreditation, we held a workshop for professional engineering institutions (PEIs) to explore the use of AAQA.



To broaden the appeal of engineering and reflect the full breadth of talent, it is imperative that all sectors and disciplines of the profession keep pace.



DIGITAL  
INNOVATION  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
IN 2022



To support a more digitally innovative profession

Work has begun on our Document and Information Management System (DIMS) project, to ensure we have the right systems in place to work effectively and innovatively; this includes considering how we collaborate with partners and volunteers.

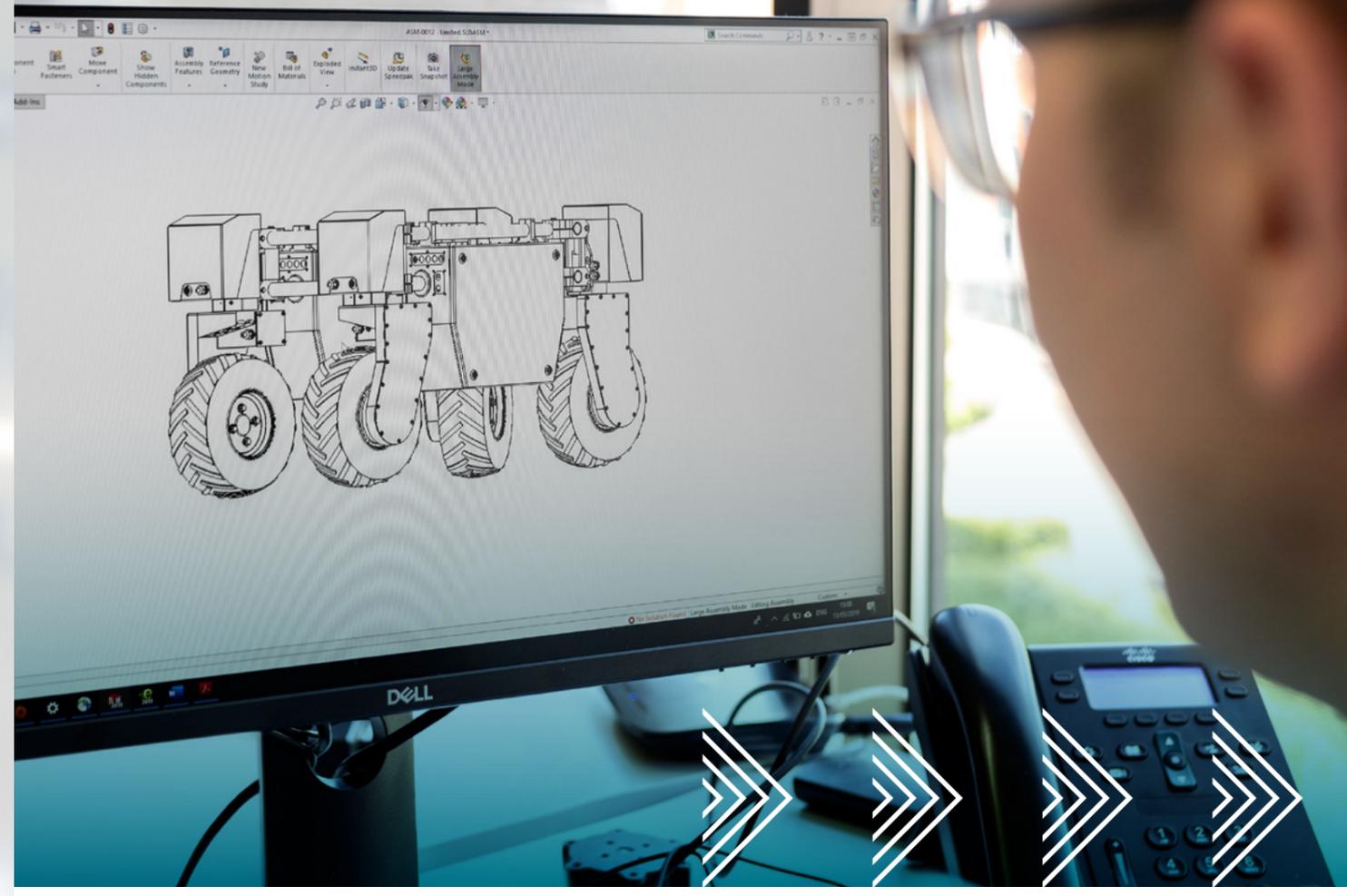
Building on our online quarterly celebration of new registrants' achievement, we have redesigned our titles leaflets and Pocket Guide to Registration for digital use, promoting the value of professional registration.



As the scope of engineering continues to expand and develop, the Engineering Council must be able to respond to accelerating technological change.



## INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022



### To maintain, develop and promote an internationally respected standard

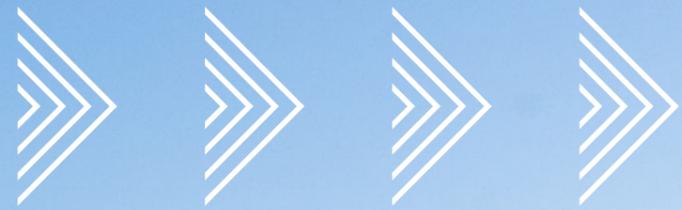
Consulting with the Government on a range of issues, including trade agreements and the scope and implementation of the Professional Qualifications Act, we have reaffirmed the Engineering Council's role as the UK competent authority, representing the UK profession internationally.

We signed Admissions Pathway Agreements with Spanish professional bodies AIPE and AQPE, which will facilitate the mobility and recognition of engineering professionals between the UK and Spain; further European agreements are in progress.

We are actively engaged with colleagues across the world through the European Network for the Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAE), ENGINEERS EUROPE (formerly FEANI) and the ENINET alliance, in addition to being the UK partner in the International Engineering Alliance (IEA), which oversees six international agreements on the recognition of standards for engineering education and professional engineering competence.



**At the heart of Engineering Council's international activity will be a clear decision and articulation on how it intends to engage internationally.**



# ENGINEERING & SOCIETY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022



## To strengthen the sustainable and ethical core of the engineering profession

Having established the joint Engineering Ethics Reference Group (EERG) with the Royal Academy of Engineering, its 'Engineering Ethics: Maintaining society's trust in the engineering profession' report was published in February 2022, setting out a series of short, medium and long-term actions for the profession in further embedding an ethical culture.

Supporting the new Building Safety regime being established post-Grenfell, we have developed the Higher-Risk Buildings (HRB) Standard as a competence framework for engineers working in this safety-critical area, including a series of discipline-specific annexes for specialisms such as fire and building services.

Ensuring that our products – particularly our Standards of competence and commitment

– remain relevant and contemporary, we have delivered a framework for and guidance on Recognised Standards, as well as re-initiating work on our Registration Review of titles.

We have contributed to the updated Engineering Subject Benchmark Statement, which now gives more emphasis to sustainability and Diversity & Inclusion, as well as reducing the environmental impact of accreditation visits through our risk-based approach.



**The Engineering Council will seek to embed a culture of ethics into all disciplines and sectors to promote public trust in all engineering professionals.**



## GOING FORWARD

2023 will include the recruitment of a new Engineering Council CEO and the beginning of Professor John Chudley CEng FIMarEST's term as Chair of our Board of Trustees.

The outcomes we will achieve by 2025 are set out in our Strategy, 'Advancing Regulation' by Themes. Delivery of outcomes will be through key activities set out in annual business plans with clearly defined metrics of success which will be communicated to stakeholders.

Our overall success criteria are:

-  a more diverse and inclusive profession
-  a more digitally innovative profession
-  an internationally respected standard
-  an engineering profession with sustainability and ethical principles at its core
-  Guidance for professional engineers and technicians

[www.engc.org.uk/strategy](http://www.engc.org.uk/strategy)

## INTERESTED IN PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION?



Find out more:

EngTech: [www.engc.org.uk/engtech](http://www.engc.org.uk/engtech)

ICTTech: [www.engc.org.uk/icttech](http://www.engc.org.uk/icttech)

IEng: [www.engc.org.uk/ieng](http://www.engc.org.uk/ieng)

CEng: [www.engc.org.uk/ceng](http://www.engc.org.uk/ceng)

Connect with us:

 @EngCouncil

 Engineering Council

Contact us:

+44 (0)20 3206 0500

[info@engc.org.uk](mailto:info@engc.org.uk)

[www.engc.org.uk](http://www.engc.org.uk)



T +44 (0)20 3206 0500  
info@engc.org.uk  
www.engc.org.uk

© Engineering Council 2022  
Quality Management System approved under ISO 9001:2015.  
Registered Charity No. 286142

Designed by [www.project64.co.uk](http://www.project64.co.uk)

