The Institution of Engineering and Technology

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PAPER CLASSIFICATION: OPEN

Board of Trustees

PATRON OF THE IET

(Paper by Christopher Knibb. If you have any questions on this paper before the meeting, please contact Christopher Knibb on 01438 767226 or by email cknibb@theiet.org)

1. Issue

To note correspondence received from HM The King's office following a petition inviting him to become Patron of the IET.

2. Timing

Board of Trustees meeting, 4 September 2023.

3. For Note

The Board of Trustees is invited to note recent correspondence received from the Deputy Private Secretary to HM The King regarding a review of patronages by the Royal Household.

4. Background

At its meeting on 6 October 2022, the Board of Trustees approved that a petition should be sent to HM The King's Private Secretary from the President, inviting His Majesty to follow in his mother, grandfather, great uncle and great grandfather's footsteps and become the next Patron of the Institution (Minute 3.2 of T(22)78 refers). The petition, sent on 31 October 2022, is attached as Appendix A.

5. Update

5.1. The Board is asked to note a response from HM the King's Deputy Private Secretary, Dr John Sorabji, which explains that the Royal Household is carrying out a wide review of organisations of which HM Queen Elizabeth II was Patron as well as organisations to which HM The King and The Queen were connected through Patronage or Presidency as The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall (Appendix B).

5.2. As suggested by Dr Sorabji, a review is being conducted of the IET's websites and where our Patron is named, we will be making content changes.

5.3. A short response acknowledging receipt of the correspondence will be sent by the President.

6. Risk

Having a Royal Patron provides publicity for the work of the Institution and allows our achievements and contributions to society to be recognised. A failure to secure a new patron would have some impact.

7. Resources

No additional resources required.

The Institution of Engineering and Technology

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Appendix A

HM The King
c/o Sir Edward Young KCVO
Private Secretary
Buckingham Palace
London
SW1A 1AA

Monday 31 October 2022

Sir,

On behalf of our 155,000 members in 148 countries, our volunteers and our staff, I write to invite Your Majesty to follow in the footsteps of your mother, grandfather, great-uncle and great-grandfather to become the next Patron of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).

We are privileged that Your Majesty already has a long-standing connection to the Institution. Friday 4 November 2022 will mark the 40th anniversary of Your Majesty's visit to our London Headquarters, Savoy Place, to accept your Honorary Fellowship.

The goal of the IET is to deliver its charitable purpose - to Engineer a Better World – by bringing together the global engineering community to promote the advancement of science, engineering and technology and to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas. It is our mission to inspire, inform and influence our global community, supporting technology innovation to meet the needs of society.

During the IET's 150th anniversary last year, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II credited those within the profession as playing a key role in solving global challenges, as well as continuing to improve the lives of millions of people all over the world. Your father spoke of the importance of engineers to the future of humanity when, in a 2016 BBC interview, he said: 'Everything not invented by God is invented by an engineer' and at the IET we believe that we have an important role in engineering a better world.

The Institution has always promoted the skills engineers have to make our world better for everyone. To achieve this in more recent times, we have chosen to focus on several societal challenges where the engineering profession and the IET can make an impact. Each is inspired by the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The most pressing of these is Sustainability and Climate Change and our members are sharing knowledge globally to combat this. The IET is influencing policy changes that will have a lasting impact and is inspiring the next generation of engineers and technicians to think about how they could solve these challenges and others faced by our planet. This is an area we feel aligns with Your Majesty's continued focus, having championed action for over 50 years to create a more sustainable future.

I hope Your Majesty will favourably consider our request to be the next Patron of the IET.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your Majesty's humble and obedient servant.

Bob Cryan

Professor Bob Cryan

The Institution of Engineering and Technology is registered as a Charity in England & Wales (No. 211014) and Scotland (No. SC038698)

BALMORAL CASTLE

Appendix B

8th August 2023.

Dear Professor Cryan

Thank you for your letter of 31st October in which you kindly invite His Majesty The King to become Patron of The Institution of Engineering and Technology. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you on this occasion. As I am sure you will understand, due to the high volume of correspondence at this time it has not been possible to reply until now.

The Royal Household is conducting a detailed review of Royal Patronages. The review covers the organisations of which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was Patron and those organisations to which The King and The Queen were connected through Patronage or Presidency as The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall.

As such, we will consider your request as part of the wider review. Whilst the review is underway, organisations may wish to update their websites to reflect that The late Queen, The former Prince of Wales or The former Duchess of Cornwall were Patrons. Pre-Accession references to indicate Patronage can remain in place on printed material to avoid unnecessary waste.

I was very interested to read of your organisation's long history of Royal Patronage and current focus on sustainability and climate change. Please be assured that this will all be given careful consideration as part of our review of Royal Patronage.

Their Majesties The King and The Queen are grateful for your understanding at this time. My office will be in touch following the review and due to the large numbers of organisations involved, it would be very much appreciated if your organisation would be content to wait to be contacted rather than to make individual enquiries.
Thank you for your continued patience as we work through our careful assessment.

Yours Sincerely

Dr. John Sorabji
Deputy Private Secretary to The King

Professor Bob Cryan, CBE.