

Structured for Success



The Institution of
StructuralEngineers



Dear Institution voting Member

Extraordinary Meeting: May 6th 2021.

Very often, the calling of an EGM is synonymous with a major problem! Let me at the outset of this short letter reassure you that this is far from being the case with the meeting planned for May 6th.

The short document of which this letter is a part, explains the very positive reasons why the EGM is necessary and this I hope will encourage you to support the Institution's Board by turning out to vote for the proposed changes to the Institution's Bye-laws.

As the Institution continues to grow internationally and as we seek to be ever more mindful of developing as a transparent and inclusive community in all that we do, then now is the time for us to make some modest changes to the guidelines by which we operate.

We are already a thriving community and collectively possess a deep-seated pride in the heritage of this Institution which has served our profession well for over a century. In themselves, the proposed Bye-Law changes are certainly not ground breaking. They do however provide the opportunity for a much-needed refresh of our governance arrangements. This will help Board and Council, along with your continued support, to make sure that our Institution can continue to evolve to serve us, serve society and support the next generation of structural engineers – wherever in the world they live and work.

On behalf of the Board, the Board Chair, Peter Terrell and together with our Executive Team, I thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully
For the Institution of Structural Engineers

Don McQuillan
100th President: (2020 and 2021)



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Don McQuillan

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What happens next?

The Institution of Structural Engineers is a UK registered charity with Royal Charter

This means that some of our activities are regulated and when we want to make changes to the way we work and operate we must first get approval from the Privy Council. Activities that are regulated in this way are called the Institution's Bye-laws. The Privy Council is a Government body that makes executive decisions which are then formally issued in the Queen's name.

For most changes that are needed for the efficient and effective running of the organisation, the Institution's **Trustee Board** are empowered to act through the Institution's **Regulations** and very often, this involves discussion with the **IStructE Council** of elected Member Representatives.

The Institution is constantly evolving, modernising and adapting both in response to societal needs and to meet the requirements of a modern professional body. Bye-laws however, do not change on a regular basis and applications might be many years apart. The Board believes that the time is now right to make some modest changes.

To change **Bye-laws**, the Institution must first gain approval of its voting members through an Extraordinary General Meeting (**EGM**) and with that approval it can make a submission to the Privy Council who consider such applications from those organisations that have a Royal Charter.

The **Board** with **Council** backing and having also consulted with former Institution Presidents wishes to hold an **EGM on May 6th** to seek voting member endorsement of proposals for changes to the Institution's Bye-laws.

Structured for Success (S4S)

Structured for Success (S4S) is the collective name that embraces a number of initiatives and reforms that the Board believe will help position the Institution for its continuing development. There was a short article from our Chief Executive about S4S in the February issue of The Structural Engineer and more information in the April issue.

Many of the S4S proposals do not require changes to our Bye-laws but some are referenced in this short document to help put the EGM proposals into context.

There are four over-arching areas of development that fall within the S4S umbrella.

To further embrace the culture of a truly international Institution

Nearly 35% of the Institution's membership is based outside the UK. Our members play an important role in the life of their local Institutions as well as in their commitment to IStructE and each year we host our examinations in many countries around the world.

We recognise the importance of the international exchange of information, guidance and best practice and the opportunity it provides to enrich the learning and competency of members wherever in the world they practice. With many global challenges that include the societal impacts of sustainability and climate change it is increasingly important that IStructE is positioned to support Members wherever they live and work. It is also important for the Institution to maintain influence on an international platform that has been developed over many years with much valued links with other professional bodies and regulators.

To develop our internal structures to help ensure we remain “fit for purpose.”

The Institution is over 110 years old – itself a remarkable achievement. Over the years it has of course made changes to the way it operates but importantly always staying true to its core values of support to members and to its public obligations as a charity.

The Board wishes to make some changes to how the governance structures are arranged so that we continue to uphold our core values whilst equally recognising that how we do things, how we say and write things and how we embrace an increasingly diverse membership needs to reflect the modern world in which we work and live.

The Institution is particularly proud of its support for students and graduates who join us in ever increasing numbers. Helping the next generation of professional engineers as they develop the competencies they will require in their career is a vitally important aspect of the Institution's work and something that IStructE members take great pride in supporting.



About Structured for Success

Supporting members who are involved with Institution activities

The growth, development and reputation of the Institution is founded in the strong commitment and energy of Institution members who actively and passionately contribute, support, coach, lead and share their skills and knowledge in many ways.

As the Institution continues to develop and grow, we need to harness the support of even more members.

We recognise however, that the time pressures on members in their business and personal lives is perhaps substantially more challenging than 10, 20 and 30 years ago. In many aspects the way in which the Institution operates has not changed materially down the years and despite the generous time commitments from many, there is a reticence from many others to take on roles and responsibilities.

As our membership mix changes, we need too, to reflect on the way in which members wish to engage with the Institution both in terms of offering support and in terms of the support they need from their Professional Body.

Digital Communications are transforming how communities and individuals engage

The Institution is investing heavily in the development of its digital capabilities. Taking advantage of modern technologies is transforming the way in which members can interact and engage with IStructE activities. It is also enabling the streamlining of many Head Office functions and the way in which products and services can be provided to members and subscribers.

In the months ahead there will be opportunity for members to consider and explore how the Institution might balance its traditional ways of working with the new opportunities that are becoming available

Resolutions for the EGM

Bye-Law 2

Introduction of GIStructE as a grade of membership of the Institution

We are always pleased to see student members transferring to graduate membership of the Institution and we want to do everything practical to support that early career development.

Many of our graduate members hold membership of other professional bodies and have yet to decide which route to professional status they wish to follow. Our provision of development materials; courses and focussed events together with the ability to be part of our young professionals' networks provides helpful support. Many also study for and are successful in the Institution's Structural Behaviour Examination which is an important early demonstration of the attributes required of a structural engineer. As such we want to encourage many more of our younger members to take that examination.

As our entry point test of competence, we believe success should be acknowledged and rewarded. Accordingly, for those early career graduate members with an appropriate degree and who have passed the Structural Behaviour Exam, The Institution wishes to confer the status of GIStructE.

Bye-Law 15

Removing the limit of 5 Vice-Presidents

Whilst the Board does not recommend increasing the size of the Board (from up to 15 persons) it does believe that the prescriptive direction in Byelaws on the numbers and designations of those serving on the Board is no longer appropriate and should, in the future be determined under the Institution's regulations. For this reason, the EGM will be asked to approve removing the current limitation on the number of Vice-Presidents elected to the Board.

If approved, it is the intention of the Board to increase the number from 5 to 6 with the express aim of increasing the Vice-Presidents eligible for election to the Board from outside the UK.

Bye-Law 15

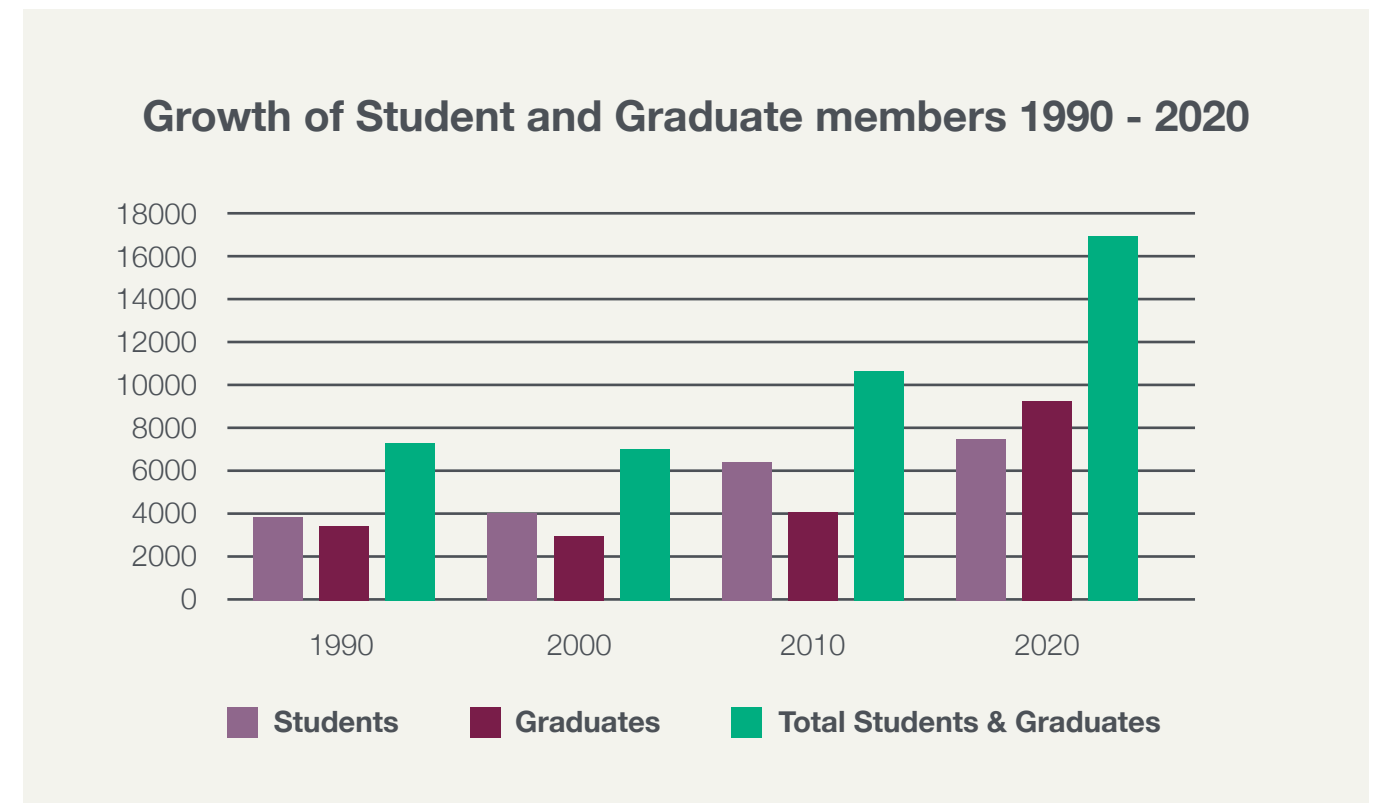
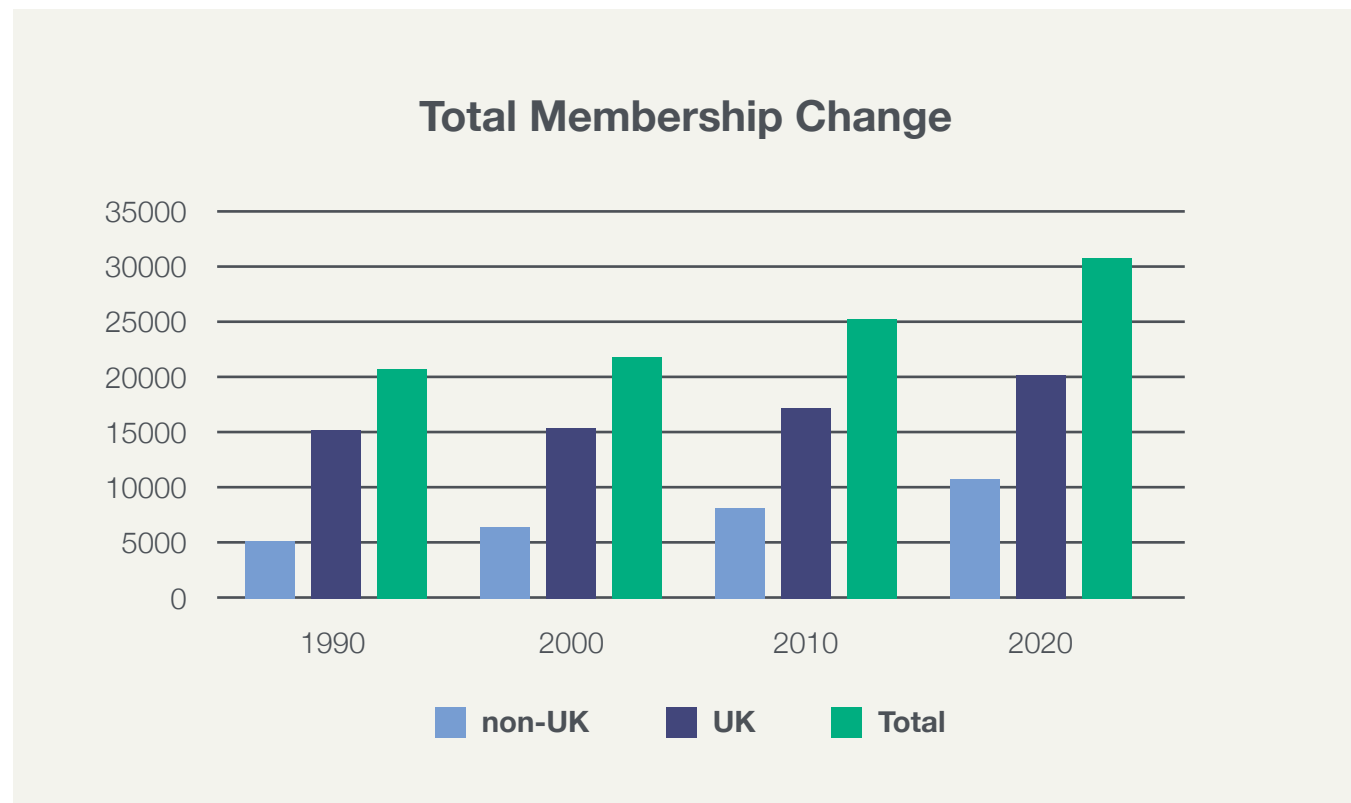
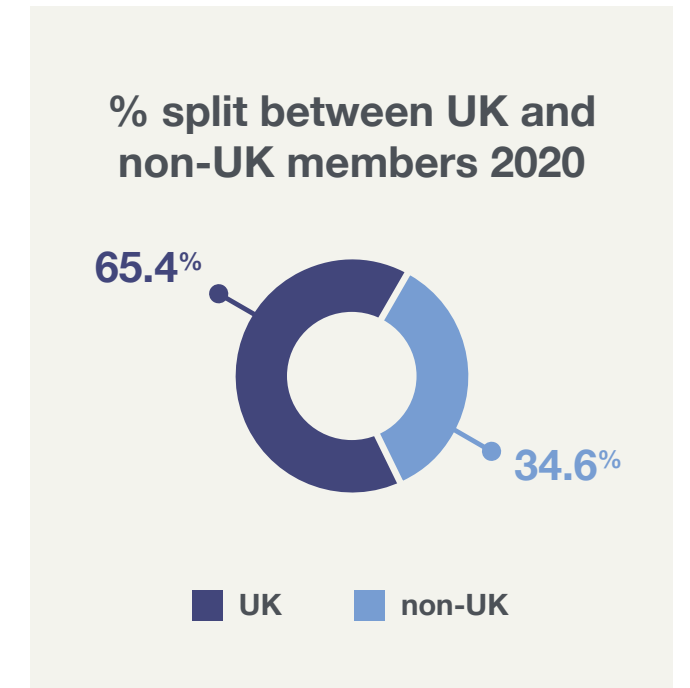
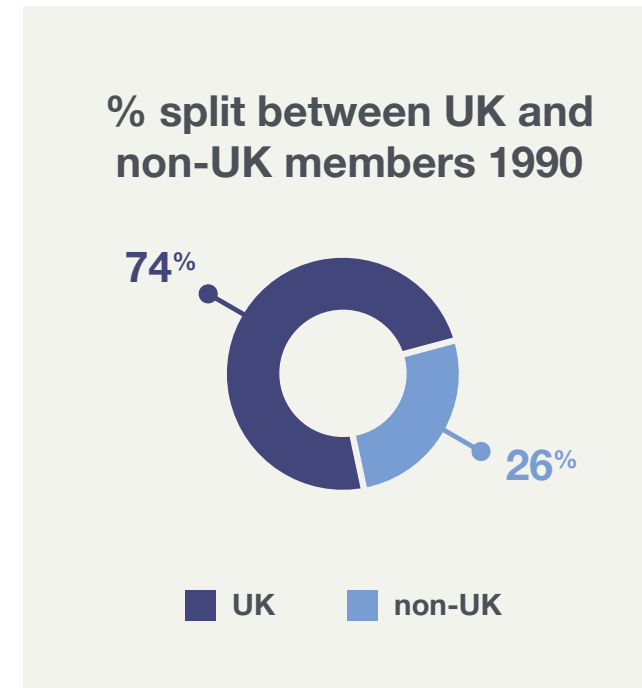
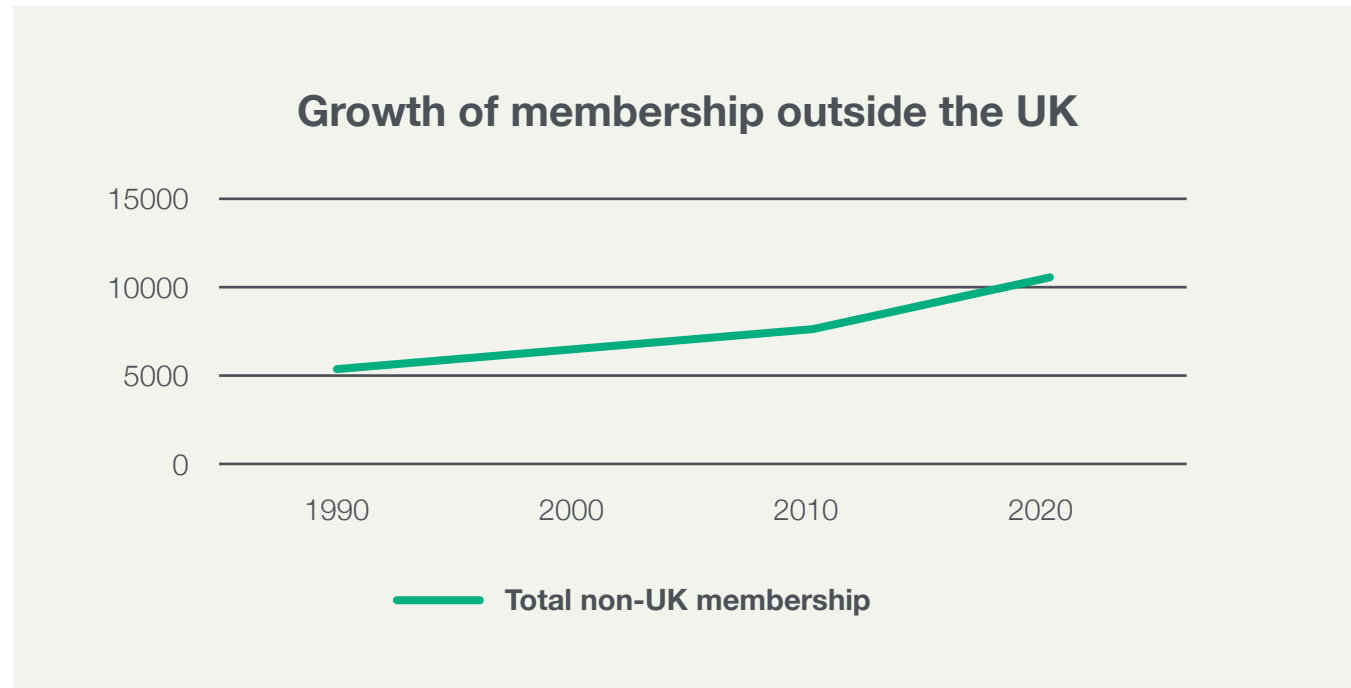
Referring to all Board members as Trustees

One of the objectives of S4S is to ensure our "rule books" are written in a language that is appropriate for our times and that where possible, the language is streamlined and simplified so that it can be better understood by all who wish to consult it.

In some places for example, certain Board members are referred to as "Officers" and in other places the Board is referred to as an "Executive Board". The proposal is to remove these terms and instead refer to all Board members as "Trustees".

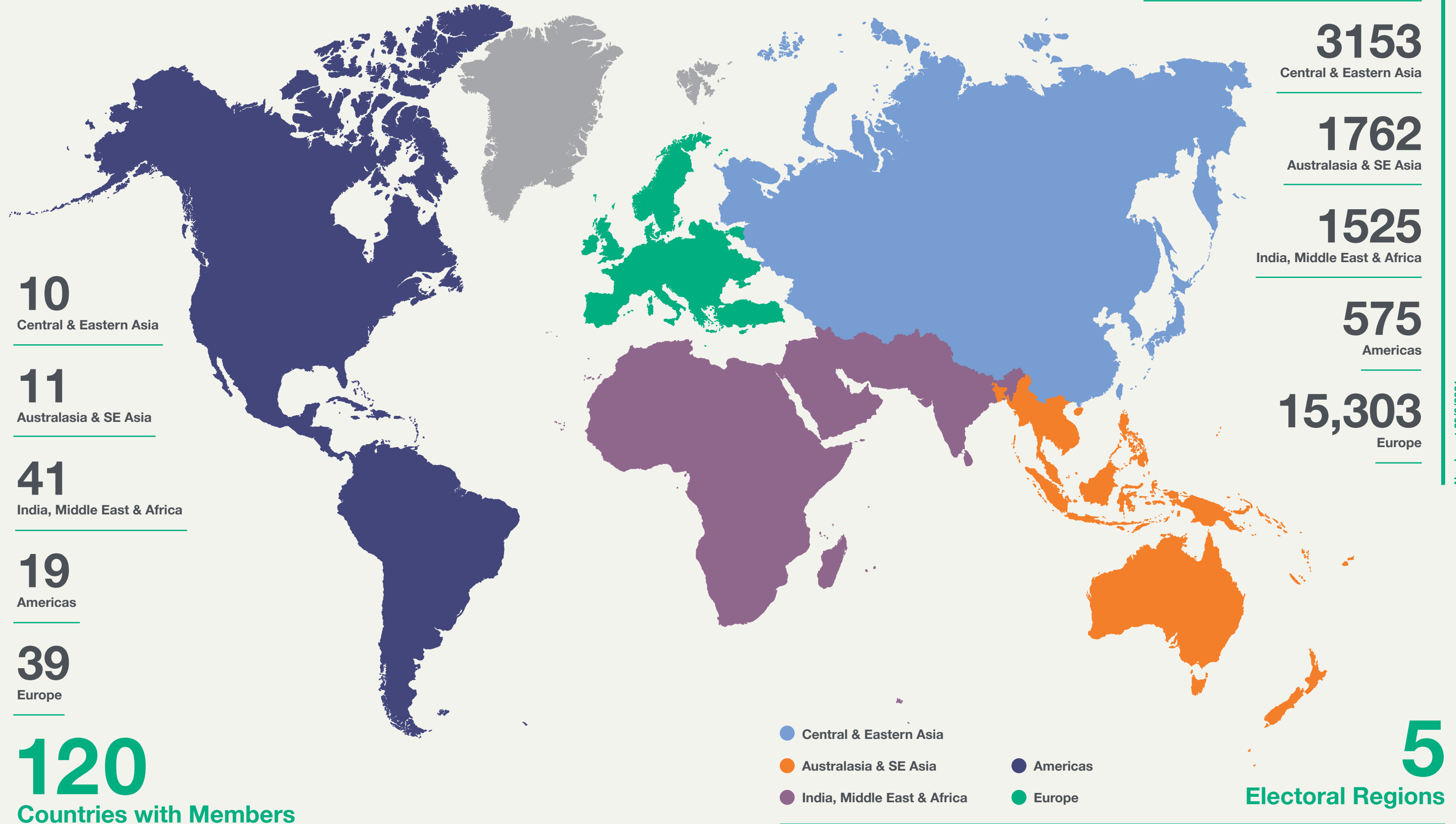


Key facts and figures



Outline of New Voting Regions for election of Vice-Presidents

22,318
Voting IStructE Members



What happens next?

Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

- This will be held as a virtual meeting on May 6th, 2021: 9am BST
- The formal EGM calling notice will be published in the April issue of *The Structural Engineer*
- An email will be sent to all voting members with an invitation to register attendance

Further Information about Structured for Success

- This briefing note focuses on the proposed Bye-law changes
- An article explaining more about S4S is published in the April issue of *The Structural Engineer*
- Some Regional Groups will be arranging a meeting for members to discuss the proposals with the Chief Executive, Martin Powell, and a Board Member. Please contact your usual Regional Group contact for further information
- For any other S4S related queries then do please email Martin at cex@istructe.org

In case of difficulties

- In the event that you experience difficulties receiving or accessing the above information, please contact Board Secretary Dr Kristy MacDonald at kristy.macdonald@istructe.org
- The Institution offices remain closed in accordance with UK Government covid-19 containment measures. Telephone calls are being handled remotely however, along with postal mail there may be delays in responding so we do recommend using either of the email addresses provided

After the EGM

- Provided the resolutions are passed, then arrangements will be made to prepare a submission to the Privy Council. It is estimated their formal response could take between 12 and 18 months
- If one or more motions are rejected, the Board will determine whether to proceed with an application to the Privy Council in respect of any approved motions, or whether to indefinitely defer an application
- As appropriate, the Board have considered what progress can be made implementing S4S in respect of matters not dependent on changes to Bye-laws. This will be further considered based on the outcome of the EGM
- Further development of S4S initiatives will be in conjunction with Council; with Committees and Panels; Regional Groups and more widely with members as appropriate to the topics under consideration



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