

Section: UK and Ireland Section**Reporting Officer: Eduardo Audiche - Secretary****Section Vitality**

Please provide information about the date of last Section elections, date of next elections, and do you have the practice of Vice-Chair becoming the next Section Chair. Section ExCom meetings (list them and provide brief summary if appropriate). List the activities carried out to retain and recruit members and the results obtained.

Election

From November 03 to December 05 2021, the IEEE UK and Ireland Section held its Vice-Chair Election for period 2022 - 2023 who will become the Section Chair during period 2024 – 2025. Prof. Paul M Cunningham won the election against Dr Richard Pitwon and Sohaib Sheikh. Next election will take place in November 2023 to elect the new Vice Chair for the period 2024 – 2025 who will be the Section Chair for period 2026 – 2027.

ExCom Meetings

Two ExCom meeting were held in 2021. The first one in April 24th (online format) along with our AGM. Due to the nature of virtual meetings, the event was separated in two blocks. First, we had the ExCom meeting and, after a 15min break, we had the AGM.

The second one on October 26th was the first Section meeting in a hybrid format. The physical meeting took place at the T34 floor of BT Tower, a communications tower located in Central London owned by BT Group. The Event had three sections, in the morning the ExCom meeting had place where all Section's matters were discussed. After lunch, the Chapter Chairs meeting including Affinity Groups and Local Groups took place. Finally, a Panel Session followed by drinks and networking.

The Panel session was titled: "Future Directions of Communications: Vision, Standards and Requirements" organised by David Law (Distinguished Technologist at Hewlett Packard Enterprise and IEEE-Standards Association Patent Committee Chair), including Maziar Nekovee (Dean of the AI Institute and Managing Director of the 6G Lab), Adrian Sharples (Senior Wireless Research Manager at BT Laboratories) and Stephen McCann (Distinguished Engineer at Huawei). Panel moderated by Toktam Mahmoodi (Professor of communication Engineering and Director of the Centre for Telecommunications Research at King's College London).

The panel discussed the current and future direction of wired and wireless communications technologies, their supporting standardisation activities, and their requirement.

Membership

The section has set three priorities in line with membership development: 1) Getting closer to industry, 2) Promoting technical activities based on IEEE Future direction, and 3) Humanitarian activities.

1. Industry engagement is led by industry forum and professional registration chairs.
 - a. Our Industry Forum, through which we have researched and responded to UK industry needs which fell in three areas: re-skilling long standing employees with digital skills; Input to IEEE Standards for new technologies; and ongoing professional development and the demonstration of competence.
 - b. Industry-led activities: technical and non-technical activities planned or organised by our section's officers including: our flagship conference called IEEE British and Irish Conference in Optics and Photonics (BICOP); Blockchain our SIG launch event and webinar series; our support for RTSI 2022 (now 2023): International Forum on Research and Technologies for Society and Industry (IEEE RTSI); and our support for Internships towards industrial placement – facilitating student placements in UK & Ireland industries.
 - c. Thematic area professional development: helping individuals develop skills that help them to perform as a rounded professional. Key development areas include personal, management, and business skills.
2. Four local groups have been established since 2020. Blockchain LG was launched in Feb 2020 after nearly 18 months of organisation. Future network initiative had its launch event virtually on 25th March 2021. The Cybersecurity local group was formed in 2020 and formally launched last year in May. Quantum local group is the more recently formed group which was approved by the ExCom in the Section Autumn Meeting last 26th of October. [IEEE Future Directions – IEEE – UK and Ireland Section \(ieee-ukandireland.org\)](http://www.ieee-ukandireland.org)
3. First SIGHT project completed in August 2021: "Inclusive Multi-Sensor Platform for Autistic Kids that Encourages Social Interaction" <https://www.ieee-ukandireland.org/affinity-groups/special-interest-group-on-humanitarian-technology/>. Our SIGHT committee also hosted the IHTC 2021 (International Humanitarian Technologies Conference) on December 2nd to 4th 2021 (Virtual Conference). <https://www.ihtc21.org.uk/>

The above strategies are set to organise events in response to the membership needs and interests and for better engaging members in the section activities:

Membership development has mainly been focusing on ensuring members are happy with their membership and so at various points, questionnaires have been sent to our members, to better understand them and give them an opportunity to inform us (ExCom) on what they would like to see more of through their membership. Due to the large geographical spread, over the recent years, and specifically since the pandemic started, our section has been doing more virtual events and then make them available to our members on our website to be watched on demand. We also ensure that we take up any opportunity to recruit new members, through e.g., IEEE booths at conferences, universities (mainly for student members), and then also talking to employers who e.g., are looking to promote professional membership to their employees.

Taking that there are a lot of members that do not know enough other members to then apply for senior membership and that getting people to senior membership helps with retention, one of the main focuses has been on supporting members to elevate to senior membership, which is done through a due diligence process. This has been successful for several hundred of our members but is very labour intensive. It is supported by a pool of volunteers that either help with the due diligence process and/or the writing of references. As a section, we would like to get support to automate the parts of this due diligence process that are currently being executed manually by our volunteers and take up hours of our time. Everyone has been diligent in performing these actions but automating this would free up volunteering time to support more members in this process as well as time to deal with other elements of membership development.

Students

List of Student Branches (SB) in your Section, the newly formed or dissolved SBs, if any since the last meeting reporting (Oct 2021). List the student meetings held and Section activities addressed to Students and Young Professionals.

The UK and Ireland Section currently has 42 registered SB in the UK and Ireland Section. 34 of these are active and have submitted reports in the previous year, with the others in ongoing discussions.

The Section has seen rapid growth of enthusiastic student branches across over 30 universities, holding high quality and diverse events. Our successful revitalisation programme saw an increase of student branch reports from 8 in 2019 to 34 in 2020, with a further five appointments made to previously dormant branches and branch chapters throughout 2021. This previously resulted in a student branch rebate of £3,770 being received invested in further student activities in 2021.

The UK and Ireland Section has seen a number of student branches participating in the IEEE Student Awards, including the Larry K. Wilson Award, Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award, Darrel Chong Student Activity Award and the Global IEEE Student Branch Website Contest. Many branches plan to participate virtually in the upcoming IEEEExtreme 24-hour programming competition, the IEEEmadC mobile application development contest and the IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest. In addition, the UK and Ireland Section student branches participated in the IEEE Day Virtual Celebrations.

The plan for 2021 was to further increase the appointment of enthusiastic officers to the remaining dormant student branches, with the objective to achieve a 100% reporting rate. Support is continuously provided to student branches to hold a diverse and interesting range of virtual events, and collaboration between student branches will be encouraged.

The plan for 2022 include:

- Student Branch Engagement Programme: Continue to build relationships with the network of student branches in the UK and Ireland Section, ensuring that chairpersons are active, aware of their obligations and supported in hosting events and activities. Ensuring that annual reporting is completed by the posted deadline, and handover to new branch leaders is handled smoothly.
- Activity Promotion: Provide advice and guidance for new branches or committees to host their events (virtually or in-person), advertise events broadly to all student branches in UK & Ireland and Region 8.
- Participation in Regional and Global awards: Guidance to branches on how to meet criteria for awards and assist applications.
- Return to in-person events:
 - Support student branches and new student leaders to develop knowledge of procedures in hosting in-person events and activities at their universities
 - Encourage collaboration between local student branches, resulting in shared activities and pooling of resources.
 - Planning of section-wide IEEE student branch congresses for networking, sharing of ideas and providing essential information and demonstrations to new branch leaders.
- Finally, a focus on developing student chapters within the section, with the aim of supporting high-quality technical events and webinars from distinguished lecturers will be undertaken, with funding made available to support this initiative.

In regards to Young Professionals, below the list of activities.

- Build on current success and volunteer base from existing events to further reach out to members across the section with the following high-level plan:
 - 3rd YP PG STEM Symposium held on 10th November –Building on the success of the previous editions, this event was held virtually and included paper & poster sessions, workshop and panel discussions. https://ieeekiyp.org/3rd_stem/schedule/
- Due to the impact of Covid-19 on the everyday life our members, volunteers, we have had to make adjustments to our calendar of scheduled events and plans.
 - Digital Health Conference, Dublin 2020 (now planned for mid-2022)* – Full day conference with multiple 1-hour talks, and/or 1-hour seminars on real world digital health initiatives by academic, industrial and bureaucratic leaders. Event currently delayed due to the current pandemic but is intended to be held late this year. Further details can be found here <https://ieeekiyp.org/upcoming-events/2020/08/28/Digital-Health-Conference.html>
 - Industry Talk (planned for mid/late 2022)* –Online event to be held with 1 or 2 30-45min talks on topical issues to be held later this year. Details to be confirmed in due course.
 - Scottish Research Event (planned for 1st half of 2022)* – Virtual event for PhD students to be held with a series of poster presentations and/or workshops on a chosen theme. Details to be confirmed in due course.
 - Arduino workshop, Dublin – (now planned for 2022)*- Event currently delayed due to the current pandemic restrictions but is intended to be held next year. <https://ieeekiyp.org/upcoming-events/2020/08/28/Arduino-Workshop-Dublin.html>
- *Subject to new leadership
- YP AGM 2021 – to be hosted in Nov/Dec 2022 - for volunteers to e-meet, review progress, strategize and plan ahead for the subsequent years YP program.
- Ongoing Improvement to digital/social media presence and communication with members through re-vamped website, Facebook and twitter page.
- Continue to collaborate with industry, chapters and other similar organizations with shared interests.

Affinity Groups

List of Affinity Groups (YP, LM, WiE, SIGHT, etc.), list of SB AGs, newly formed or dissolved AGs/SB AGs, if any since the last meeting reporting (Oct 2021). List the activities intended to support affinity groups.

The UK and Ireland Section has a well established Life Members, Women in Engineering and Young Professional Affinity groups. More recently the Section has also supported forming technical Special Interest Groups (SIGs). SIGHT in 2019, Blockchain was launched in February 2020. Future network initiative had its launch event virtually on 25th March 2021. The Cybersecurity local group was formed in 2020 and formally launched in May 2021. Quantum local group is the more recently formed group which was approved by the ExCom in the Section Autumn Meeting last 26th of October.

Life Members

They have planned to unveil the latest IEEE Milestone plaque (Active Shielding of Superconducting Magnets) at the Siemens factory at Eynsham, Oxford, next half of 2022. The Committee has continued to work on the Milestone proposals in its pipeline. The EMI CT X-ray Scanner proposal has been approved by the IEEE History Committee, subject to agreement on the wording of the citation. A proposal from the Manchester Computer Science community commemorating the Atlas computer and the Invention of Virtual Memory is being submitted. Also, the ‘Baby’ Ferranti computer. Other possible candidates for Milestones are under review and will continue to be worked on by the LMAG Committee.

Women in Engineering

WIE committee members often receive requests to speak at events or to organise hands on sessions across the Section. They have planned to develop a WIE Ireland network of volunteers to promote WIE at events (in collaboration with WIE R8). Also develop a database of female keynote speakers for recommendations to conference committees. WIE will apply for SIGHT funding to develop training support materials for neuro-diverse women in engineering and technical careers to cope with scenarios specific to these careers (e.g. Scrum sprint meetings) among other initiatives. WIE committee has also launched its new WIE Ambassadors scheme, to coincide with and celebrate International Women’s Day this year with a focus on career development.

Young Professionals

With a team of 15 volunteers from industry and academia, the group is focused on hosting exciting events that generate interest and motivate members to develop their technical, interpersonal and leadership skills. Over the past 4 years, the Affinity Group has transformed itself from a fairly low base to a young vibrant group within the section, successfully hosting a number of events be it a half-day networking seminar, entrepreneurial bootcamp, or a three-day cross-regional conference attracting some high-profile speakers nationwide along with local as well as overseas attendees.

Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology

The first SIGHT project funded was successfully completed in August 2021. The project is supporting the sensory activity of autistic children consisting in an integrated platform which promote collaborative learning (multi-user application) with customisable content. Our SIGHT committee also hosted the IHTC 2021 (International Humanitarian Technologies Conference) on December 2nd to 4th 2021 (Virtual Conference) <https://www.ihtc21.org.uk/>

Blockchain

Blockchain group was officially launched in February 2020. They plan to continue series of webinars (6 annually), expand format of online events (panel discussions, workshops, etc) and organise a virtual group meeting this year. The vision of the IEEE UK & Ireland Blockchain Group is for an active and dynamic forum focused on member value. The aim is to serve as a forum for professional networking, learning, and growth for our IEEE UK and Ireland members in the rapidly emerging Blockchain field and to organise events covering the start-of-the-art Blockchain technology and applications.

Future Networks

Future Networks will be formally launched on 25th March 2021. The motivation and goal of the group is to foster and promote Future Networks activities in UK & Ireland, enhance visibility of IEEE and Future Network Initiative, increase IEEE membership, and promote public awareness of 5G and B5G wireless technologies among others. They also plan to organise at least one event per quarter.

Cybersecurity

This SIG was created early 2020 and had its formal launch in May 2021. They provide a multidisciplinary environment for sharing the latest trends and knowledge across industry, government, and academia. provides a multidisciplinary environment for sharing the latest trends and knowledge across industry, government and academia. Members are a diverse set of experts, bringing together insights into the technological, psychological and economic challenges faced in information security. So far they have delivered eight webinars and it is expected at least 6 per year.

Quantum

This is the most recently formed group. IEEE Quantum is an IEEE Future Directions initiative that serves as IEEE's leading community for all projects and activities on quantum technologies. IEEE Quantum is supported by leadership and representation across IEEE Societies and OUs.

The initiative has developed a project plan to address the current landscape of quantum technologies, identify challenges and opportunities, leverage and collaborate with existing initiatives, engage the quantum community at large, and sustain the Quantum Initiative in the long-term.

The group promotes and co-operates in the educational and technical activities which contribute to the useful expansion of the field of quantum technologies and applications.

Chapters

List of Chapters and SB Chapters in your Section, the newly formed or dissolved Chapters, if any since the last meeting reporting (Oct 2021). Indicate how many have reported on time and received rebate. Highlight some of the activities.

Our Section currently has 35 of the possible 39 technical societies represented in the UK and Ireland. Those societies which we do not yet have a UK and Ireland chapter are and look to form are:

- IEEE Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Society (NPS05)
- IEEE Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics, and Frequency Control Society (UFFC20)
- IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Society (ITSS38)
- IEEE Product Safety Engineering Society (PSE43)

In fourth quarter last year, the Nanotechnology Council Chapter was launched. The UK and Ireland Nanotechnology Chapter is a sub-chapter of the IEEE Nanotechnology Council (NTC), which is a multi-disciplinary group whose purpose is to advance and coordinate work in the field of Nanotechnology carried out throughout the IEEE in scientific, literary and educational areas. The Council supports the theory, design, and development of nanotechnology and its scientific, engineering, and industrial applications.

The Section has identified and agreed common strategies for all chapters. Below a summary table.

Technical	Contributing to bids / projects
	Deliver related technical webinars
	Publications
Membership Development	Setting up awards
	Support student chapter formation (subsidising student society members)
	Employability (start-ups / accelerators)
Others	Ethics standards/policies. Covid-19 certificates/ roadmap

During the Section Autumn Meeting (hybrid format) on 26th of October, the Chapter Chairs had the opportunity to present its plan of activities for 2022 along with key achievements and member services in 2021. Every chapter also showed their focus areas including goals, KPIs and list of challenges which are used by the Section to develop the strategies and relevant actions to support Chapters requests.

We want to highlight that the IEEE UK and Ireland Power and Energy Society (PES) Chapter won ‘Region 8 Chapter of the year award’ in its large chapter category for second year in a row. Earlier in 2021 the PES Chapter was awarded with the High Performing Chapter Program. US\$ 880.00 was given to the PES Chapter as an encouragement towards future work, as well as an important recognition of their continued effort in providing better services to the members and public, particularly, young people in universities and workplaces.

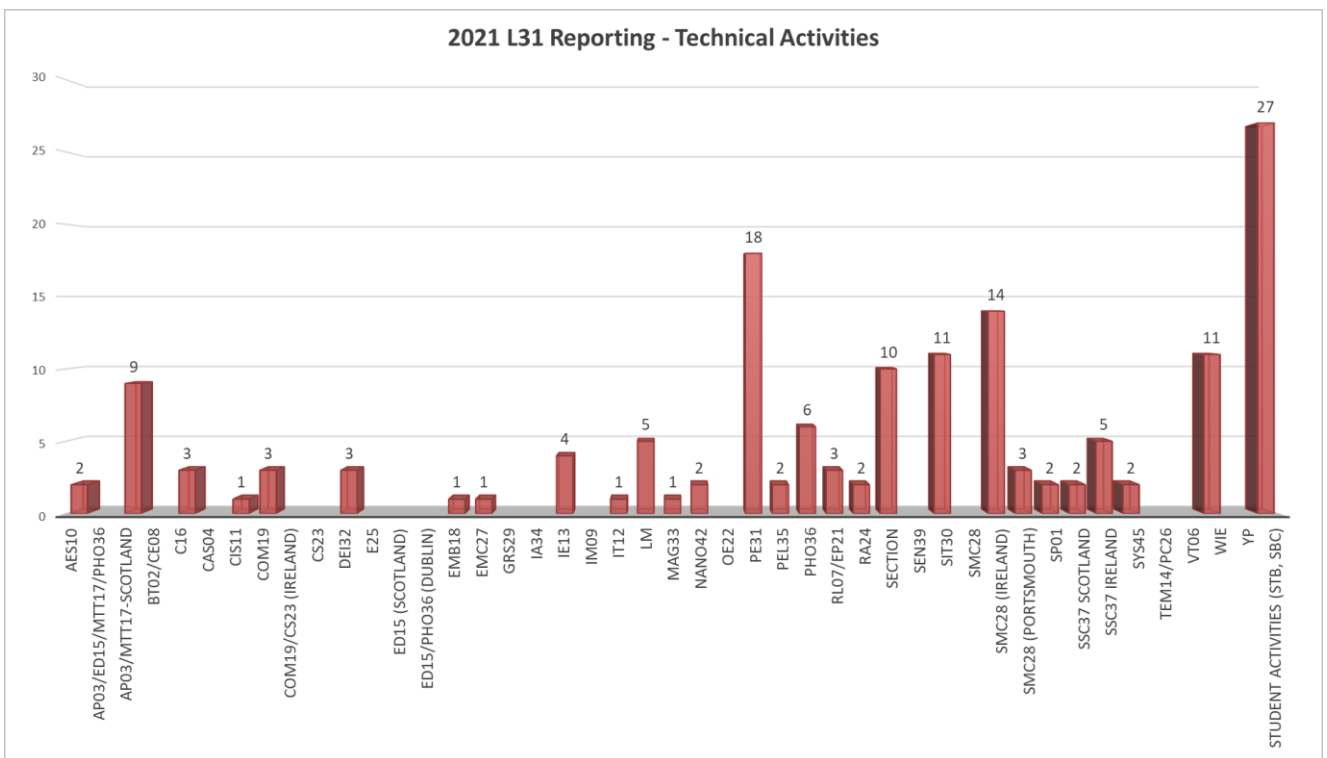
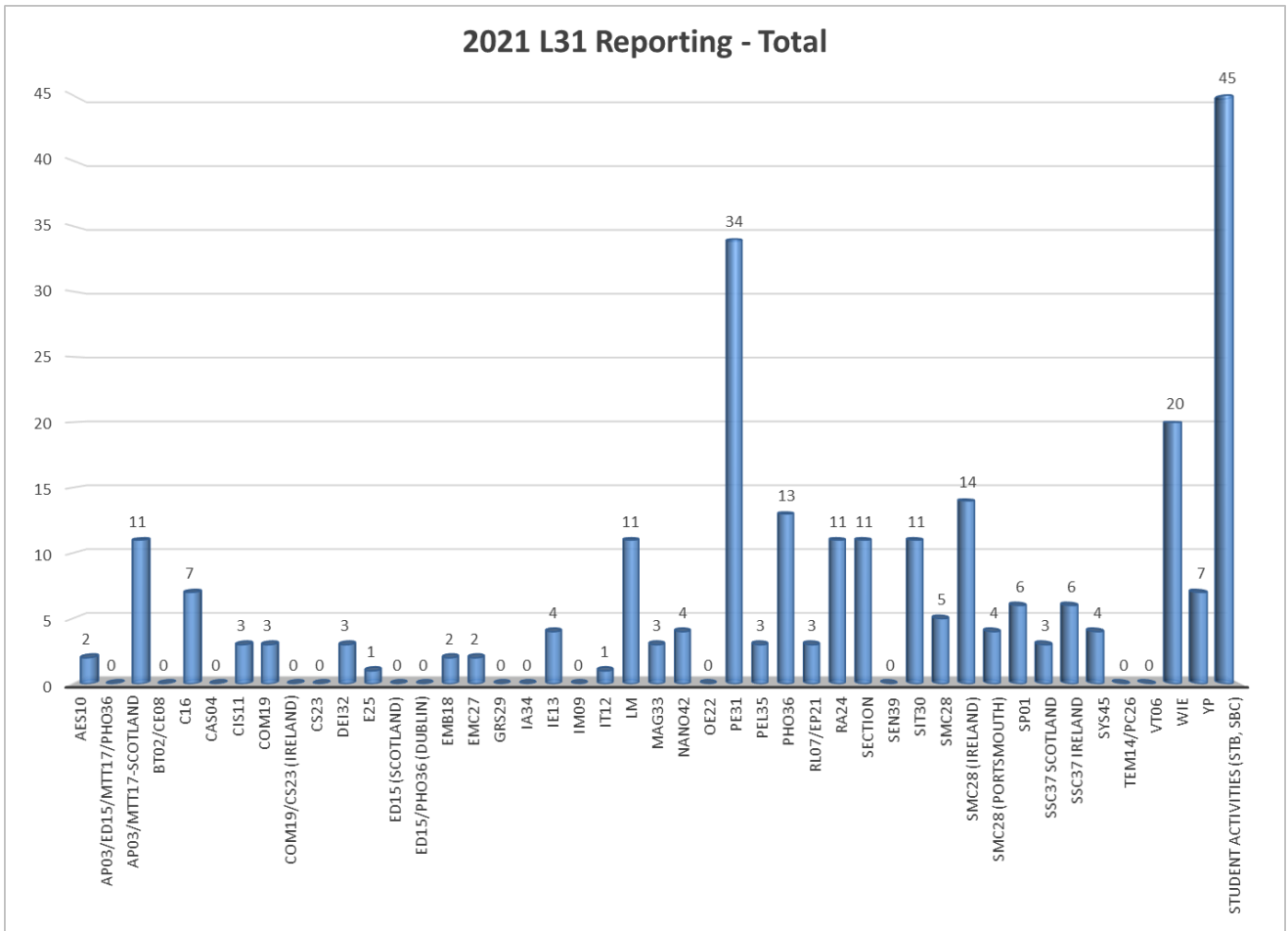
Bellow you will see the list of the Section’s Chapter and AGs with their L31 reports submitted by 25-02-22. It is possible that the number of activities will change as Chapters have until 15th March to report all their events.

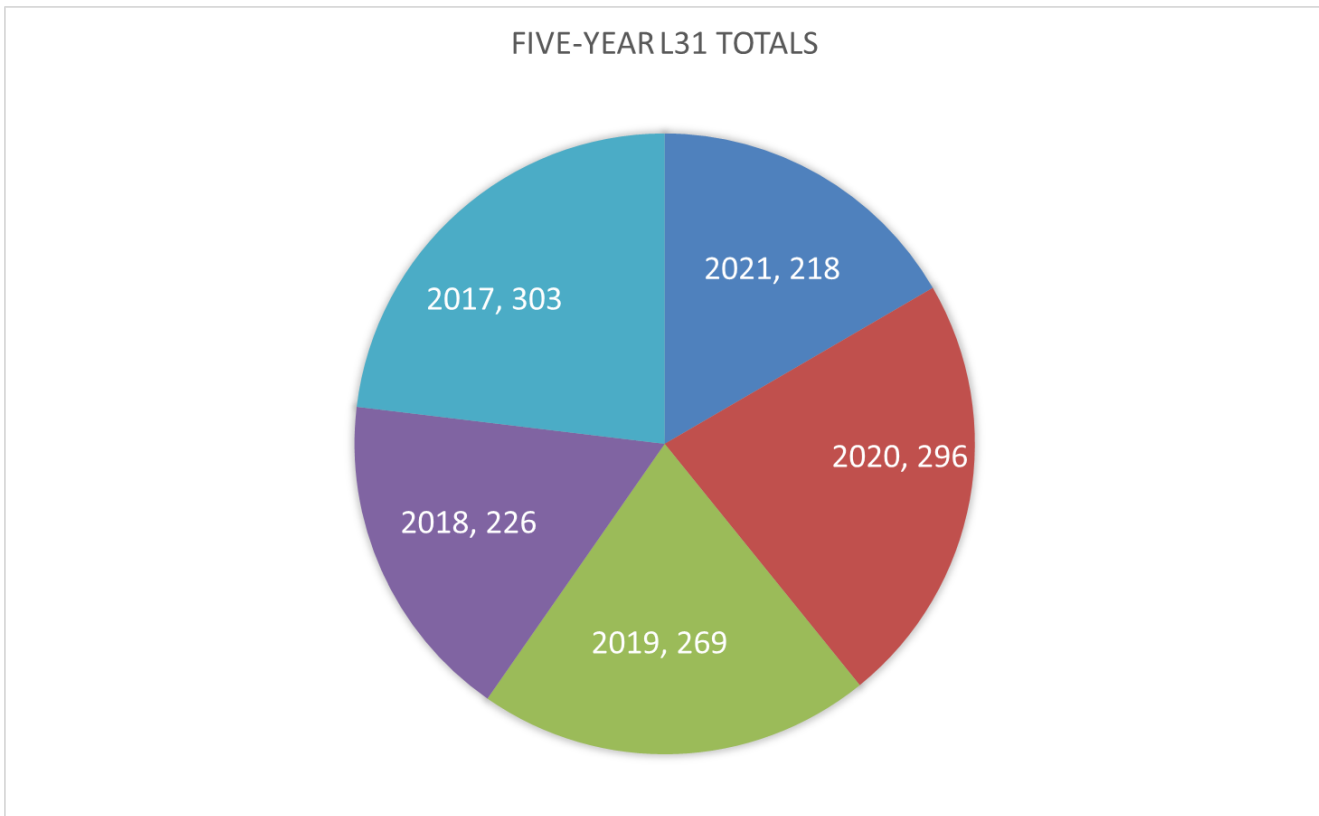
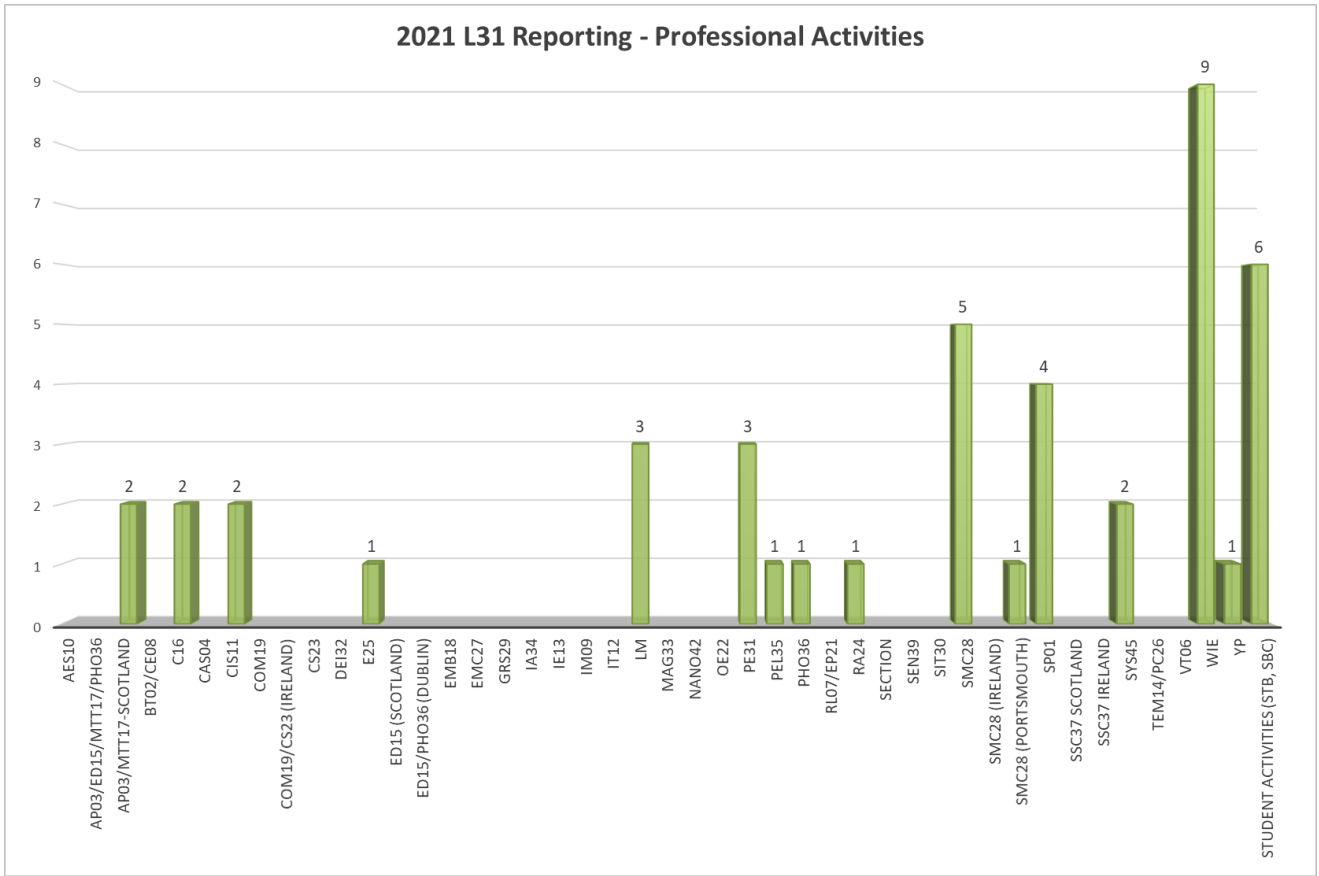
Also, it can be seen from the charts the total activities, the technical events alone and professional activities separate. The Section wish to open a motion where Technical and Professional activities can be considered indistinctly as part of the minimal requirement for Chapters to be compliant. We have checked the type of professional activities carried out and they also fall as ‘Technical’. We have cases such as SMC28 which organised 5 high-quality events and were classified as “Professional” instead of Technical and despite all the planning and hard work it will be considered as no compliant due to having zero “Technical” events.

Finally, it can be seen the total L31 events reported during the last 5 years.

		Year on Year Reporting	Total	Technical	Profess.	Admin
		2021				
CH08505	AES10		2	2		
CH08039	AP03/ED15/MTT17/PHO36		0			
CH08863	AP03/MTT17-Scotland		11	9	2	
CH08401	BT02/CE08		0			
CH08031	C16		7	3	2	2
CH08030	CAS04		0			
CH08381	CIS11		3	1	2	
CH08045	COM19		3	3		
CH08415	COM19/CS23 (IRELAND)		0			
CH08032	CS23		0			
CH08678	DEI32		3	3		
CH08452	E25		1		1	
CH08738	ED15 (SCOTLAND)		0			
CH08729	ED15/PHO36 (DUBLIN)		0			

CH08284	EMB18	2	1		1
CH08086	EMC27	2	1		1
CH08842	GRS29	0			
CH08239	IA34	0			
CH08623	IE13	4	4		
CH08379	IM09	0			
CH08258	IT12	1	1		
LM80015	LM	11	5	3	3
CH08035	MAG33	3	1		2
CH08127	NANO42	4	2		2
CH08432	OE22	0			
CH10142	PE31	34	18	3	13
CH08113	PEL35	3	2	1	
CH08211	PHO36	13	6	1	6
CH08185	RL07/EP21	3	3		
CH10141	RA24	11	2	1	8
R80015	Section	11	10		1
CH08804	SEN39	0			
CH08667	SIT30	11	11		
CH08371	SMC28	5		5	
CH08650	SMC28 (Ireland)	14	14		
CH08814	SMC28 (Portsmouth)	4	3	1	
CH08072	SP01	6	2	4	
CH08307	SSC37 Scotland	3	2		1
CH08286	SSC37 Ireland	6	5		1
CH08834	SYS45	4	2	2	
CH08778	TEM14/PC26	0			
CH08709	VT06	0			
WE80015	WIE	20	11	9	
YP80015	YP	7		1	6
	Student Activities (STB, SBC)	45	27	6	12
	Sum	257	154	44	59





Industry

List the activities carried out to foster relations with Industry and the results obtained.

Industry

The United Kingdom and Ireland section has an Industry Engagement Officer, also a Professional Registration Officer, these two key officers ensure we have continuing collaboration with the industry. UK and Ireland Section is currently working on three main scopes:

- Our Industry Forum, through which we have researched and responded to UK industry needs which fell in three areas: re-skilling long standing employees with digital skills; Input to IEEE Standards for new technologies; and ongoing professional development and the demonstration of competence.
- Industry-led activities: technical and non-technical activities planned or organised by our section’s officers.
- Thematic area professional development: helping individuals develop skills that help them to perform as a rounded professional. Key development areas include personal, management, and business skills.

Whilst some of these activities have had to be delayed or put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic we continue to develop our offering. A key enabler to increasing industry engineer membership levels in the UK is believed to be the ability to offer Professional Registration as a Chartered Engineer or equivalent through the IEEE. A steering group has been established chaired by Brian Harrington (former Region 8 treasurer), and we have agreed to a path to Associate Membership of the Engineering Council, a key first step in establishing this capability in the next 6 months. Find below the plan of activities:

- Understand relationship between Engineers Ireland and the Engineering Council in respect to IEEE.
- Achieve full understanding of Engineering Council’s “Registration Code of Practice”.
- Complete exploration with chosen Licensed Institutes.
- Work towards an MOU with each of the Licensed Institutes where agreements have been reached.

Professional Activities

This Committee was revitalised in late April 2021 with a new appointed Section’s officer. Below the current plan of activities:

- Developed clear definition and scope of Professional Activities and presented it to Section Chair and Vice-Chair
- Completed background review of PA in the Section and other IEEE OUs.
- Completed IEEE Centre for Leadership Excellence course for PA Chairs.
- Developed a vision and strategy for PA in the Section.
- Liaised with the IEEE Strategic Research team for a survey of professional development needs in the Section.

To articulate a clear vision and strategy, a working group is being created to develop programmes based on actionable insights from the surveys that are being liaised with the IEEE Strategic Research team (survey of professional development needs in the Section).

Activities since the last report

Highlight some of the activities in your Section, with special attention to the things that work well, and things that don’t, so that your acquired know-how can be used by other Sections.

The Section successfully organised the IEEE International Humanitarian Technology Conference (IEEE IHTC) 2021 held virtually from 2nd to 4th of December 2021. IHTC is a Multi-Regional Conference Series rotating between R7 (Canada), R8 (Africa, Europe and Middle East), and R9 (Latin America and Caribbean). This inter-disciplinary conference series focuses on showcasing challenges, success stories, lessons learnt, case studies and technological innovation related to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ICT4D and the application of Humanitarian Technologies (including Disaster Relief and Disaster Recovery) and facilitating engagement by stakeholders from the public, private, education and research and societal sectors around the world.

We placed a particular emphasis on facilitating participation and sharing of experiences by key stakeholder groups from low and lower middle-income countries as well as low resource communities.

Established in R7 where previous editions took place in 2014 and 2017, IEEE IHTC 2021 took place in R8 as a Virtual Conference, organised by Volunteers from IEEE UK and Ireland Section (UK and Ireland SIGHT and SSIT IST-Africa SIGHT) as well as Region 8, Region 7, Region 9 and UK and Ireland SSIT, SMC and Systems Council Chapters.

More details here: <https://www.ihtc21.org.uk/>

On 9th of December 2021, The IEEE UK and Ireland Section traditional Christmas Lecture took place at the iconic Regent Street Cinema at the University of Westminster. We had the honour of Dr Doron Swade giving a lecture on “Story-telling in the History of Computing”. This was a hybrid event, allowing the option of either attendance in-person or remotely via Zoom.

Doron Swade is an engineer, historian, and museum professional. He was Curator of Computing for many years at the Science Museum, London, and later Assistant Director & Head of Collections. He is a leading authority of the life and work of Charles Babbage and is responsible for the successful construction of Charles Babbage’s Difference Engine No. 2 built to original nineteenth-century designs.

He is an Honorary Fellow of the British Computer Society, and of Royal Holloway University of London. He was awarded an MBE in 2009 for services to the history of computing.

Following the Christmas Lecture, our past Section Chair Dr Mona Ghassemian gave a summary of a very successful year for the Section, and along with Treasurer Mathew Gream, presented a number of awards to volunteers for their service and dedication during the last 12 months.

Also, in this event was announced the new Section Vice Chair 2022-2023, Prof Paul Cunningham. A special recognition was given to Dr Mona Ghassemian the outgoing Section Chair for her outstanding contributions and leadership during the last 4 years. A warm welcome was given to our new Section Chair 2022-2023, Prof Izzet Kale.

Planned activities

Highlight some of the future activities and initiatives in your Section.

The UK and Ireland Section priorities are:

- 1- Getting closer to Industry. IEEE for Industry (Corporations, Government, Individuals).
 - Professional Registration.
 - Industry internship programmes.
 - Follow IEEE industry engagement.
- 2- Engage in IEEE Future Initiatives. New Technology Focus Areas
 - Blockchain, Future Networks, Cybersecurity and Quantum.
- 3- Contributions to Humanitarian activities. Advancing Technology for Humanity.
 - Conferences, events, talks related to COVID-19, Section SIGHT project.

Chapters, Affinity Groups, Special Interest Groups, Future Directions, Student Branches, and Section's officers benefit from a variety of Section's channels to help communicate and disseminate all their activities and events. These advertisements are complementary to the Chapters' channels such as LinkedIn groups, twitter, Facebook, newsletters, etc. The UK & Ireland Section manages mainly three channels: eNotice, Website, and Twitter.

Our Section website is a strong channel to communicate section activities to members. It has vital information for members and continue to be a source for dissemination of member related and IEEE activities. Our Section News column offers current list of activities (<https://www.ieee-ukandireland.org/section-news/>).

IEEE UK and Ireland Section PES Chapter Forms Women in Power Committee (<https://www.ieee-ukandireland.org/ieee-uk-and-ireland-section-pes-chapter-forms-women-in-power-committee/>). The main mission of Women in Power (WiP) is to advance the world through the creativity and innovation of diverse leadership, and to foster the careers, connections and talent of women in the power industry to achieve their full potential and become leaders of the future.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Group was formally approved by ExCom during Autumn Section Meeting on 26th October 2021. Long Term Plan:

- To collaborate with the Section leadership and collect and track diversity metrics and best practices across the IEEE UK and Ireland.
- Create opportunities to encourage inclusive participation with the committee.
- Capture and harness lived experiences of beneficiaries to inform policies and practices
- Co-create recommendations with beneficiaries and disseminate across chapters to bridge the gap between statistical data and actual practice on DEI

Short Plan:

- Define activities and directions.
- Data collection and DEI reporting (recruitment, awards, activities).

- Committee recruitment and membership:
 - Consult and co create with committee members.
 - Capture and utilise lived experiences.
- Partnership and data led recommendations.

Regarding Section Awards and Recognition, the Section has three key aspects planned:

- IEEE awards (global) which require to follow a nomination process. Our Awards and Recognitions Officer, Prof. Jan Sykulski, will work through getting these applications submitted when our members meet the requirements.
- Promote members elevations to Fellow grade through our Awards and Recognitions Officer.
- Section’s recognition process creation. Nomination forms are being created to encourage CCs, Officers and members to nominate outstanding volunteers in any of the diverse categories available. The second award ceremony to be held during the section spring AGM on April 2022.

How Region 8 can be of help to your Section, members, and activities

List any challenges you Section is facing and what support is required from the Region 8. Please, also, give us your suggestions for agenda items that you want to be discussed during the R8 Committee meeting.

- Closer to Industry: Region 8 may be able to assist by providing legal support on the MoU we are preparing to be signed with IET, IEI, etc.
- Attract and Support Students and Young Professionals: Region 8 may be able to assist by supporting programmes that can promote employability of recent graduates during pandemic.
- Membership: As a section, we would like to get support from region 8 to automate the parts of this due diligence process that are currently being executed manually by our volunteers and take up hours of our time. Everyone has been diligent in performing these actions but automating this would free up volunteering time to support more members in this process as well as time to deal with other elements of membership development.
- The Section wish to open a motion where Technical and Professional activities can be considered indistinctly as part of the minimal requirement for Chapters to be compliant. We have checked the type of professional activities carried out and they also fall as ‘Technical’. We have cases such as SMC28 which organised 5 high-quality events and were classified as “Professional” instead of Technical and despite all the planning and hard work it will be considered as no compliant due to having zero “Technical” events.
- Volunteers are finding that they are facing increased workload in their full-time jobs due to remote working while having to manage family life. This coupled with an increase in screen time, potentially results in less available time to volunteer. We are continuing to review volunteer workload and offer support as much as possible.
- A lot of effort is required by volunteers to host medium scale events. This varies across the section as volunteer commitment is dependent on their workload and availability. Seems to be an ongoing challenge that we are trying to manage best.

Any other issues of interest

Due to COVID the Section decided to upgrade its Zoom account in order to offer our ExCom an alternative to IEEE WebEx to organise and host meetings and webinars for their chapters’ events. The Secretary put in place a procedure for Chapter Chairs to request webinars / meetings to have the events set up and receive the necessary guidance to host them. At the same time the webinars are advertised through our Sections channels (eNotice, website & twitter) and the recording is later uploaded on our website to give our members the opportunity to watch the events on demand.

The Section has recognised that delivering a professional-looking webinar or a smoothly conducted meeting goes beyond simply making the technology available. To enable this, it has produced guidance for users, such as:

- Best practice in setting up the webinar
- Pre-webinar checks to ensure that the audio and video are working
- A practice run-through so that the presenter is familiar with the platform
- How to record the event and the permissions required to do so.

The advantage of recorded online events is that an enduring record remains and, in the case of webinars, can be made available on-demand. To take advantage of this new opportunity, the Section has set-up and made available a Vimeo account where the recordings can be uploaded and then linked to the website and social media. To avoid webinar organisers having a significant amount of extra work to do, they simply record the event and make it available on a Google Drive or Dropbox,

and then the Webmaster uploads, processes and makes it available. As experience with webinars increases, the Section is further enhancing the production of these webinars by making available front and back slides which are IEEE Section branded so that when a webinar is downloaded from the website, the link with IEEE and the Section remains. By making use of analytics, we can determine which thematic areas produce the most views and downloads which we can use to inform the future direction. In addition, as videos are good website traffic drivers from Google, this is likely to result in more visitor engagement with the Section website.

Chapters and AGs always are looking for having representation of volunteers and committee members from different regions. For instance, Education Society Chapter are co-chaired for two officers from Wales and England with a recent representative in Scotland. Future Network Initiatives (SIG) is another example being co-chaired by two officers, one in England and other Ireland.

In 2022 the Section is ready to return to face-to-face events as practicable as possible.