Section: UK and Ireland Section   Reporting Officer: Dr. Saumya Kareem Reni- Secretary

Section Vitality

Please provide information about the date of the 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

The IEEE UK and Ireland Section held its Vice-Chair Election for period 2022 -2023 and Dr. Paul M Cunningham was appointed after winning against two other potential candidates. As per the section practice Dr. Paul Cunningham will become the Section Chair during the period 2024 – 2025. 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 meetings were held in 2022. The first one in April 29th 2022 which was held in hybrid format along with our AGM. The physical meeting took place in Glasgow Caledonian University, Glasgow, Scotland. This is the second time that the section has conducted its Excom meetings in hybrid format since the pandemic. The Event had three sections, in the morning the ExCom meeting took place where all Section's matters were discussed. After lunch, the Chapter Chairs meeting including Affinity Groups and Local Groups took place. There was also a technical talk titled "Building Resilient Space Exploration Missions" by Mike Hinchey, Professor of Software Engineering at University of Limerick, Ireland and IEEE UK and Ireland past chair.

The second meeting was held Dublin at the UCD Research and Innovation (NovaUCD), Belfield Innovation Park, University College Dublin on 27th October 2022. This meeting was also in hybrid format and consisted of three sections, Excom meeting, Chapter chair meeting and a technical talk titled "Towards a positive culture in research and innovation" by Prof Orla Feely, UCD Vice president for Research, Innovation and Impact and President of Engineers Ireland. The event is followed by a campus tour of the Belfield Innovation Park and networking.

Membership

The section with nearly 10000 members has the highest number amongst the 57 sections in Region 8.

The section has set three priorities in line with membership development:

1) Better involvement with Industry sector,

2) Focusing on IEEE Future directions and enhance engagement, and

3) Priorities to Humanitarian activities and Inclusivity.

While these priorities continue to be supported, additional priorities have been established such as

- Conference Sponsorship, co-sponsorship, bidding and MOUs.
    - Should first get the Section's view and consent before submission to IEEE central with cross chapter collaboration / sponsorship for all conferences.
- Terms of Office in the Section and Multiple Roles.
    - Ensure this is done according to the IEEE rules and succession plans are in place of all officers.
- Procedures for Financial Support Requests and Approvals.
    - This is to be done through a short case with costings and justifications.
- Chapter Leadership.
    - Succession planning and terms of office by all chapters to be adhered to.
- Activate Inactive Chapters & Student Branches with Cross Disciplinary events and activities in mind.
    - To further increase the appointment of enthusiastic officers to the remaining dormant student branches

Areas for improvement (2023-24)

- The section wants to focus on high profile conference organization and hosting at sectional , regional and international levels as well as to win external sponsorship..
- Continue to proactively promote Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (IEEE DEI).
- Professional Registration Activities to be brought to fruition & conclusion.
- Improve L31 submissions by easing and automating the process.

The section currently has 34 chapters /joint chapters and councils and 5 new initiatives- Diversity and Equality Inclusion group, Nanotechnology council, Cyber security, Future networks, and Quantum local groups. The section won 5 in the Region 8 meeting in Cairo 2022. awards 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 making 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. List the student meetings held and Section activities addressed to Students and Young Professionals.

The UK and Ireland Section currently has 45 registered SB in the UK and Ireland Section, which means the section has 3 more SBs than 2021-22. Around 37 of these are active and have submitted reports in the previous year, with the others in ongoing discussions. The section currently holds second place in IEEE Region 8 with 81% engagement.

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 eight appointments made to previously dormant branches and branch chapters throughout 2022. This previously resulted in a student branch rebate of £4680 being received invested in further student activities in 2022.

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 (6 Branched applied), Darrel Chong Student Activity Award and the Global IEEE Student Branch Website Contest. Many branches plan to participate virtually in the upcoming IEEEXtreme 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 following are the key activities carried out in 2022 (among others):

- 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.
- Event Support and Participation:
  - 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.

The achievements of the Students Branches to date:

- IEEE UK and Ireland attendance at the Region 8 Student & young Professional; Congress (Tunisia) 2022: Five fully funded student branch leaders in attendance.
- Student Branch Engagement Programme: 36 Student Branch Reports submitted in 2022: 81%
- Rebate of £3,724 received for branch activities.
- Region 8 'leaderboard' position: 2nd in the Region!
- Revitalisation and new formation of student branch chapters including PES, Photonics and SMC.
- Six student branches applied for R8 ExSB Award.

The Key Challenges and Plans for 2023:

- The yearly handover of student branch committee roles
- Annual reporting requirement and submission of 4x L31 activity reports.
- Return to in-person events and knowledge of procedures in new student leadership groups.
- Awareness of awards, branches reaching criteria

The plan for 2023 has been to further increase the appointment of new student leaders and 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 high quality activities and events, and collaboration between student branches will be encouraged. Further plans include:

- Promote the formation of new student branches and chapters.
- Support applications to IEEE Awards and Contests in 2023.
- Meet with and host a series of section-wide IEEE student branch congresses in 2023

Young Professionals

The young professionals went through a change in the leadership in August 2022. YP aims to 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:

- ICECS YP Track, Glasgow, 24th-26th October. This event, organized by YP Scotland representatives included talks, papers presentation and poster session. The details can be found here: https://2022.ieee-icecs.org/young-professionals-event/.
- Digital health fireside panel discussion online, November 2022, Dublin
- Local technical panelist event on Sustainability, event is in collaboration with IET YP, Birmingham, December 2022. • Subsea technologies, Aberdeen, Feb 2023.
- IEEE YP Open day Workshop, Dublin, March 2023.
- 4th YP PG STEM Symposium, Birmingham on May 2023 – Building on the success of the previous editions, this event will include paper & poster sessions, workshop, and panel discussions. This event will be organised by our England representatives.
- Hackathon, Edinburgh, June 2023.

YP AGM 2022 was held in Dec 2022 - for volunteers to e-meet, review progress, strategize and plan ahead for the subsequent years YP program. YP also aims to improve its digital/social media presence and communication with members through revamped website, Facebook and twitter page. YP continues 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. 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, Blockchain, Future Network, Cybersecurity and Quantum.

Life Members

The key achievements and plans of the affinity group includes:

- Milestone dedications and technical symposiums in Eynsham (active shielding) and Manchester University ('Baby' and Virtual Memory) attended by Executive IEEE Officers, Senior Academics, IEEE Members, Industry Representatives, Public Officials, and the general public.
- IEEE has awarded one of its prestigious Milestone plaques to the United Kingdom and Ireland Section to honour Sir Godfrey's achievements. The UK & Ireland Life Member Committee has organised a celebration comprising two events on successive days. The plaque was unveiled on Wednesday October 26th at Jupiter House, formerly the EMI Head Office, Clayton Road, Hayes. The ceremony will take place from 2-4pm. A symposium of talks about the history of the invention and its subsequent application in clinical practice was on Thursday October 27th 2022 at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, Albemarle Street, London.
- Support IEEE History Committee Milestone programme
- Dedication and symposium for EMI CT Scanner
- Contest proposal for award of Cavity Magnetron Milestone
- Progress proposal for LEO 'First Business Application of a Computer" with LEO Computers Society
- Progress proposal for First Transatlantic Radio Broadcast Milestone

Women in Engineering

WIE also has undergone leadership changes and now have a restructures committee from 8 to 18 members, 5 focused working groups and 14 projects. WIE member Nagham Saeed was awarded Region 8 outstanding 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 to extend their 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. The key WIE initiatives are:

- WIE Ambassadors scheme developed to mentor and involve early career women and students who wish to get involved in organising events that promote the WIE mission but are not (due to reasons of finance) IEEE members.
- WIE Awards designed to celebrate people who work towards supporting women engineers with a focus on inclusivity.
- Promote links and joint networking events with other Region 8 WIE groups
- Promote WIE member elevations and formation of WIE affinity student groups

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 5 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. Further to plans and achievements stated in the previous section the goals of YP includes but not limited to:

- Increase communication with members' internal planning.
- Regular review of volunteer workload to avoid burn out.

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. Apart from the committee hosting the IHTC 2021 (International Humanitarian Technologies Conference) on December 2nd to 4th 2021 (Virtual Conference) https://www.ihtc21.org.uk/. the group plans to coordinate with the R9 on IHTC 2023. Currently, SIGHT group is working on a Humanitarian Information Portal initiative to help refugees around the world. The members attended the R8 SIGHT congress on 1st August 2022. The current goals include:

- Plan for refugee response
- Plan new proposals and revive outstanding proposals.

Blockchain

The Blockchain 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

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.

The key achievements include:

- Delivered a dual IEEE Distinguished Lecture (as part of series to be delivered) – Profs Zhiguo Ding and Bruno Clerckx, on 30th June.
- In-person talks to be held in Dublin on 26th October 2022.
- Continue hosting virtual and in-person talks.
- Planning to host some social/networking activities, particularly for young professionals and women in engineering.

Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity provides 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

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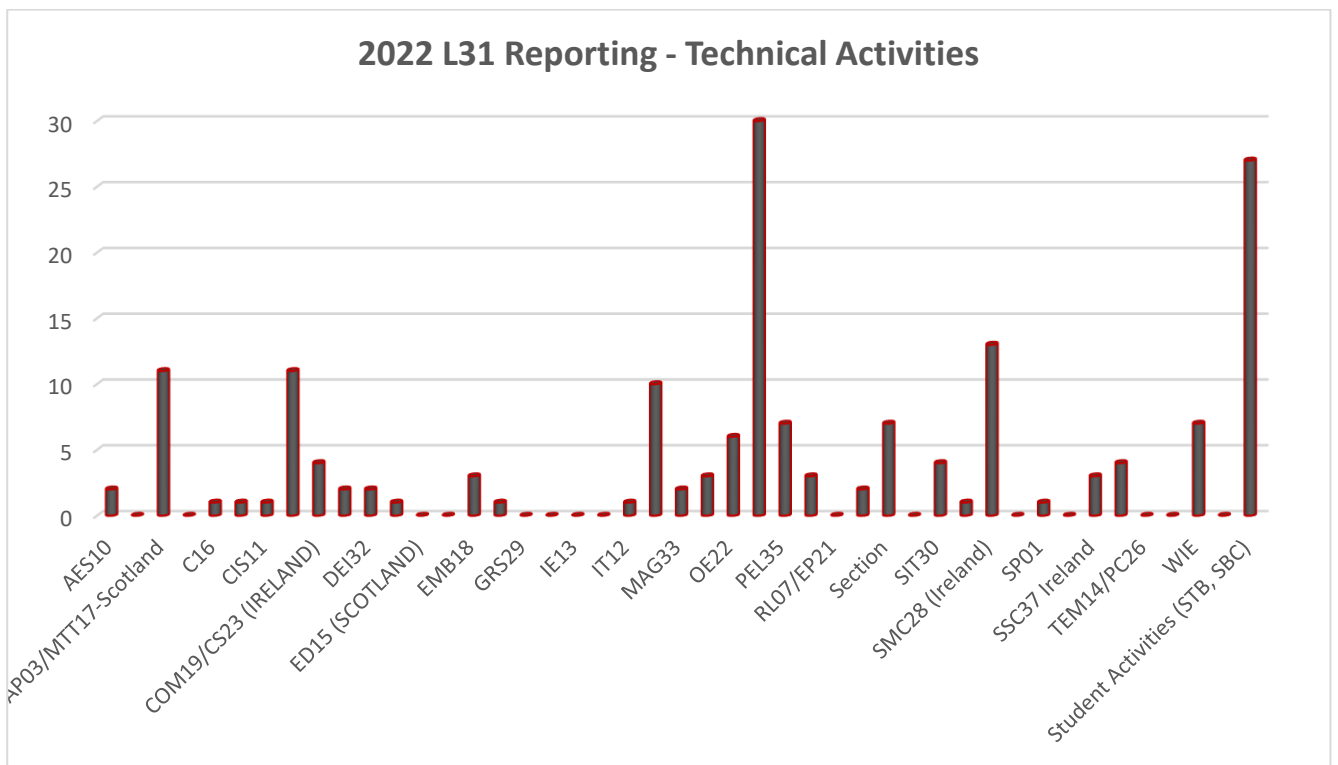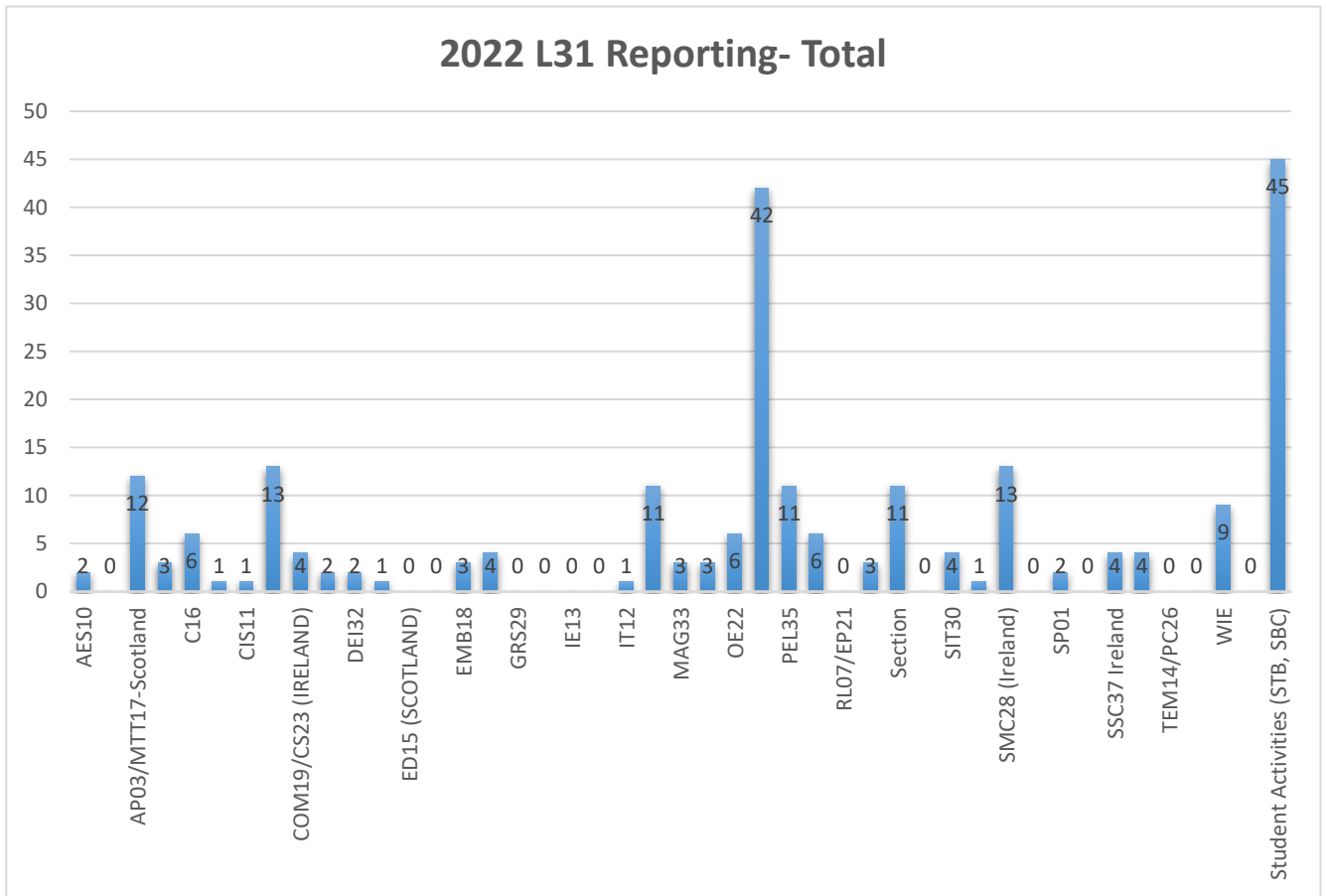
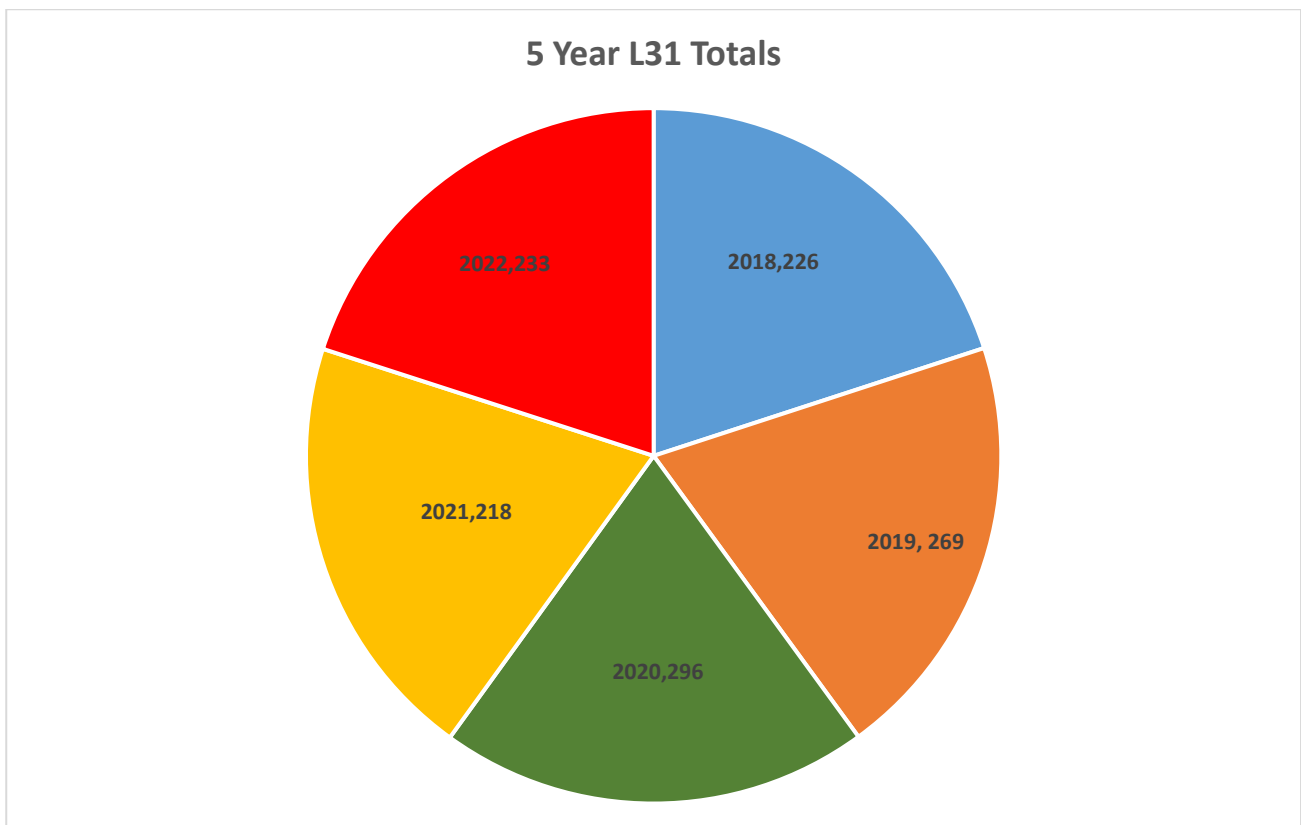|	
Technical	Contributing to bids / projects
	Deliver related technical webinars
	Publications
Membership Development	Setting up awards
	Support student chapter formation (subsidising student society members)
	Employability (start-ups / accelerators)
Others	Ethics standards/policies. Covid-19 certificates/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

During the Section Autumn Meeting & AGM (hybrid format) on 27th of October 2023, the Chapter Chairs had the opportunity to present its plan of activities for 2023 along with key achievements and member services in 2022. 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. There are a number of chapters that has undergone leadership changes as per the section key goals for 2023.

It has been agreed with all Chapters should be involved as much as possible so that the section can split the technical committees and work as collaboratively as possible within each area of interest.Chapter Chairs that events should have cross collaboration among related Societies including also cross Sections collaboration within Region 8 and Worldwide if applicable. It was also agreed that in order to receive Section's approval for conferences, such event must contain at least three chapters as co-sponsors. This must be clearly identified in the MoU before been submitted to the Section. The next section of this report provides a list of the Section's Chapter and AGs with their L31 reports submitted for 2022. Also, it can be seen from the charts the total activities, the technical events alone and professional activities separate. Finally, it can be seen the total L31 events reported during the last 5 years.

L31 Events Reporting- 2022

	Year on Year Reporting	Total	Technical	Profess.	Admin
	2022				
CH08505	AES10	2	2	0	0
CH08039	AP03/ED15/MTT17/PHO36	0	0	0	0
CH08863	AP03/MTT17-Scotland	12	11	1	0
CH08401	BT02/CT08	3	0	3	0
CH08031	C16	6	1	2	3
CH08030	CAS04	1	1	0	0
CH08381	CIS11	1	1	0	0
CH08045	COM19	13	11	1	1
CH08415	COM19/CS23 (IRELAND)	4	4	0	0
CH08032	CS23	2	2	0	0
CH08678	DEI32	2	2	0	0
CH084521	E25	1	1	0	0
CH08738	ED15 (SCOTLAND)	0	0	0	0
CH08729	ED15/PHO36 (DUBLIN)	0	0	0	0
CH08284	EMB18	3	3	0	0
CH08086	EMC27	4	1	0	3
CH08842	GRS29	0	0	0	0
CH08239	IA34	0	0	0	0
CH08623	IE13	0	0	0	0
CH08379	IM09	0	0	0	0
CH08258	IT12	1	1	0	0
LM80015	LM	11	10	1	0
CH08035	MAG33	3	2	0	1
CH08127	NANO42	3	3	0	0
CH08432	OE22	6	6	0	0
CH10142	PE31	42	30	2	10
CH08113	PEL35	11	7	4	0
CH08211	PHO36	6	3	0	3
CH08185	RL07/EP21	0	0	0	0
CH10141	RA24	3	2	0	1
R80015	Section	11	7	3	1
CH08804	SEN39	0	0	0	0
CH08667	SIT30	4	4	0	0
CH08371	SMC28	1	1	0	0
CH08650	SMC28 (Ireland)	13	13	0	0
CH08814	SMC28 (Portsmouth)	0	0	0	0
CH08072	SP01	2	1	0	1
CH08307	SSC37 Scotland	0	0	0	0
CH08286	SSC37 Ireland	4	3	0	1
CH08834	SYS45	4	4	0	0
CH08778	TEM14/PC26	0	0	0	0
CH08709	VT06	0	0	0	0
WE80015	WIE	9	7	2	0
YP80015	YP	0	0	0	0
	Student Activities (STB, SBC)	45	27	6	12
	Sum	233	171	25	37

2022 L31 Reporting- Total

2022 L31 Reporting - Technical Activities

2022 L31 Reporting -Professional Activities

5 Year L31 Totals

Industry

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

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.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Highlight any diversity metrics (gender, age, religion, geographical, employment, etc.), new initiatives, best practices and progress around diversity and inclusion happening in your Section. Link to IEEE DEI statement <link>.

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Group (DEI) was formally approved by ExCom during Autumn Section Meeting on 26th October 2021. The DEI group initiated with 40+ members from the UK and Ireland.

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 them 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 utilize lived experiences.
- Partnership and data led recommendations.

Key Acheivements:

- Formation of six subgroups within DEI to focus on Data collection, events, memberships, secretarial works, treasurer, and webmaster.
- Members and coordinators identified for each of these groups
- Regular meetings help with the ideology and direction of the DEI.

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.

Section and its volunteers won 5 awards in the following categories:

- Region 8 Outstanding Large section award 2021
- Region 8 volunteer award 2022, won by Eduardo Audiche
- Region 8 Outstanding Section SIGHT of the year 2022
- Region 8 Outstanding Woman in Engineer Chapter Volunteer 2022, won by Nagham Saeed
- Special Recognition award for hosting the 20th IEEE Milestone event.

The section also hosted the following milestone events:

- Superconducting Magnet Milestone, Witney, Oxfordshire, 17th June 2022
- Manchester University Baby Computer 1948-1951, 21st Jube 2022 at Manchester University
- Atlas Computer and invention of virtual memory, 1957-1962, 21st June 2022 at Manchester University
- 50th Anniversary of the invention of the CT-Xray Scanner (1st October 1971 at the EMI labs) in Hayes, 26th October 2022
- Section also had visits and talks from IEEE president Elect Prof Saifur Rahman and IEEE COO Steve Welby in London on 25th October 2022

Planned activities

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

The last AGM in October 2022 proposed changes to the section by-laws on the following routes:

- The Chair of the Nomination & Appointment Committee will be the Past-Past Section Chair. The Nominations and Appointments (N&A) Committee shall consist of three or more Section members not then officers of the Section and not intending to stand as candidates for office. Proposals for the N&A Committee may be made through the Section Chair or Section Secretary and shall be approved by the Section Executive Committee, not later than December 31 each year. The Chair of the N&A Committee shall not hold office for more than two years.
- In respect of conferences taking place within UK and Ireland Section, the technical and financial application and MOU drafts should first get the Section's view and consent before submission to IEEE central. Conferences in the UK and Ireland should have cross chapter collaboration so at least two societies apart from the one organising the event should be sponsors.

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, Section SIGHT project.

Section Autumn Meeting was held in Dublin on 27th October 2022 (hybrid event). The next Section Spring Meeting will take place on 28th April 2023.

Our traditional Christmas Lecture will take place in December at the iconic Regent Street Cinema at the University of Westminster.

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 2023.
- The Section Honorary Membership Award is presented to IEEE UK and Ireland Section Life Members to recognise
- significant technical contributions, exceptional achievements and outstanding volunteer service to the Section. The eligibility of this award is based on nominations or self-applications done to the UK and Ireland Awards and Recognitions Committee no later than 15th January each year. The winners will receive a recognition plaque during the Section AGM (Annual General Meeting) celebrated during spring each year.

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.
- 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

The Section has a Chapter Coordinator who looks after Chapters Chairs to ensure at least minimum requirements are met. When a chapter / AG fails to report two technical activities before the deadline, a meeting with the Chapter Chair is set with the Chapter Coordinator, Section Secretary and Section Chair. After discussing the reasons why the Chapter failed to deliver, actions are agreed upon including in some cases a change of leadership.

The Section held two meetings with Chapter Chairs / AG Chairs / Future Direction Groups Chairs per year. The first one in Spring (along the AGM) and the second one in Autumn. These meeting give Chapter Chairs the opportunity to present their plan of activities and key achievements. 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. Reports must be sent in advanced to the Section Secretary. If there are missing reports, then those Chapters are contacted by Chapter Coordinator and addressed.

The Section also appointed a new Professional Activities 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 form the surveys that are being liaised with the IEEE Strategic Research team (survey of professional development needs in the Section).

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' offers current activities (https://www.ieee-ukandireland.org/section-news/). Our Twitter Account (ieee_uk_ireland) with 1000 followers is another way to keep our members and the general public informed. The Section also has an eNotice Coordinator to help Chapter Chairs disseminate news and events through this powerful tool. The website is updated weekly, and tweets are sent with the new info. eNotices are submitted following IEEE guidance of no more than one per week.

Prepared and submitted by:
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UK and Ireland Section Secretary
9th March 2023