IEEE UK and Ireland Section   Reporting Officer Name: Saumya Kareem Reni (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

The IEEE UK and Ireland Section held its Vice-Chair Election for period 2024 -2025 and Dr. Nagham Saeed received more votes than two other potential candidates. As per the section practice, Nagham will serve as Vice-Chair for 2024 – 2025, before serving as the 2026 - 2027 Section Chair. The next election to elect the 2026 – 2027 Vice Chair will take place in November 2025, who will then serve as Section Chair for period 2028 – 2029.

ExCom Meetings

Two ExCom meetings were held in 2023. The annual spring meeting (incorporating the AGM) was successfully held in hybrid format on 28th April 2023 at Cardiff University, Cardiff. During 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 "Applications of Microwave Resonator Sensors" by Prof. Adrian Porch, Professor, School of Engineering, Cardiff University, Cardiff.

The second meeting was held in London at the University of Westminster on 20th October 2023, again in hybrid format the fourth time that the section has successfully conducted its ExCom meetings in hybrid format since the pandemic. Again the event incorporated three sections: Excom meeting; Chapter chair meeting; and a technical talk titled "An insight into the cross-disciplinary research on Applications of AI based Image Analysis and Processing on Pathological Images" by Dr.Saumya Kareem Reni, Research Fellow at Applied DSP and VLSI Research Group and Secretary of IEEE UK and Ireland Section.

Membership

There has been a very positive trend in membership development over the last six years, with numbers coming back towards those last achieved in 2016. Membership continues to increase, with UK and Ireland section having the highest number amongst the 57 sections in Region 8, with just under 11000 members. This increase is across both students as well as the higher grades, and should hopefully be reasonably future proof.

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

1) Strengthening engagement with Industry,

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

3) Prioritising Inclusivity and Humanitarian related activities.

The section currently has 42 chapters /joint chapters and councils. and 5 Affinity groups - Diversity and Equality Inclusion group, Nanotechnology council, Cyber security, Future networks, and Quantum groups. Membership development has mainly been focusing on strengthening member satisfaction, with a number of questionnaires circulated to our members, to better understand them and give them an opportunity to inform the ExCom on member priorities. Due to the large geograph-ical footprint of the Section, and accelerating since the pandemic started, the proportion of virtual events has increased, with recordings published on our section website so members can view them on demand. Membership recruitment has focused on IEEE booths at conferences and universities (mainly for student members), and engagement with employers who e.g., are looking to promote professional membership to their employees.

Supporting member elevation to Senior Membership Status continues to be a priority. As eligible members often do not have enough contacts with existing Senior Members across our large section, this requires Section support through a due diligence process that respects GDPR. While this has been successful for several hundred of our members, it has proven to be quite labour intensive. It is supported by a pool of volunteers that either help with the due diligence process and/or the writing of references.

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 46 registered SBs in the UK and Ireland Section, 4 more SBs than 2021-22. The section has around 29 SBs in England, 8 in Republic of Ireland, 6 in Scotland, 2 in Wales and 1 in Northern Ireland. Around 80% of student branches are active and have submitted reports in the previous year, with the others being supported to become more active. 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 resulted in a dramatic increase of student branch reports from 8 in 2019 to 36 in 2023, with a further 10 appointments made to previously dormant branches and branch chapters throughout 2023. This previously resulted in a student branch rebate of £1872 being received for investment in further student activities in 2023.

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 Branch applications), 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, UK and Ireland Section student branches participated in the IEEE Day Virtual Celebrations.

The following are the key activities carried out in 2023 (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 supporting submission of applications.
- Event Support and Participation:
  - Support student branches and new student leaders to better understand procedures related to successfully hosting in-person events and other 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 WESYP 2023 Congress that took place between 15th and 17th September 2023 at Ecole Polytechnique Federale Lausanne (EPFL). The event provided a great opportunity to bring together IEEE student members from Region 8 and the section funded 10 representatives to attend this event.
- Student Branch Engagement Programme: 36 Student Branch Reports submitted in 2023: 78%
- Rebate of £1872 received for branch activities.
- 2ⁿᵈ place on the Region 8 'leaderboard'!
- Revitalization and formation of new student branch chapters including PES, Photonics and SMC.
- Six student branches applied for R8 ExSB Award.

The plan for 2024 is to further increase the appointment of new student leaders and enthusiastic officers to the remaining dormant student branches, with the objective of working towards 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 2024.
- Work closely with Section leadership to organize a Section-wide Student Congress over the next two years.

Young Professionals

The young professionals aim 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.

2023 Activities include:

- YP AGM 2023 – hosted in June 2023- for volunteers to e-meet, review progress, strategize and plan ahead for the subsequent years YP program.
- There is ongoing Improvement to digital/social media presence and communication with members through re-vamped website, Facebook and twitter page.
- YP continue to collaborate with industry, chapters and other similar organizations with shared interests

Dedicated Regional Events across the Section:

A. England

   • 11th Early Career Talks (WIE and YP). 13th September 2023.

   • local technical panel on Sustainability, in collaboration with IET YP, Birmingham, December.

   • 4th YP PG STEM Symposium, Newcastle, 18th November 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 YP's England representatives.

   • IEEE Mentoring Meet 2023 – UK and Ireland Edition, Newcastle, 18th November 2023 – Helping IEEE members and non-members to find mentors of their desired domain through IEEE network.

   • Art competition on Optical Wireless Communications, online submission until 10/09/2023.

   • IEEE YP introduction to students in Newcastle, UK. The event was established in collaboration with IEEE student branch in May 2023

B. Ireland

   • IEEE YP Open day Workshop, Dublin, (originally planned for March 2023, rescheduled to March 2024).

C. Scotland

   • IEEE NEWCAS YP Track, Edinburgh, 26th -28th June. This event included talks, papers presentation and poster session. The event has been organised by YP's Scotland Representative.

   • Marine and Subsea technologies, Aberdeen, Feb 2024. This event will include talks, papers presentation and poster sessions. The event will be organised by our Scotland Representative.

Affinity Groups

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

The UK and Ireland Section has well-established Life Members, Women in Engineering and Young Professional Affinity groups. More recently the Section has also supported forming Affinity Groups, including SIGHT, Blockchain, Future Network, Cybersecurity and Quantum.

Life Members

The key achievements and plans of the affinity group includes:

- The Cavity Magnetron: Milestone 1 on 27ᵗʰ October 2023 and Milestone 2 on 18ᵗʰ December 2023
- The Anderson Bridge complete, submitted and still awaiting an Advocate. Note: Advocates must be a past or present History Committee member – there are currently 21 proposals awaiting an Advocate.
- Submit proposal for LEO (Lyons Electronic Office, London) Milestone. Plaque to be at the Queen's Head pub where the team met. Agreement letter signed and scheduled for the 4ᵗʰ of June 2024
- Investigating with IET the possibility of joint Milestone at Savoy Hill House for first commercial transatlantic broadcast (BRH) – still trying to secure a plaque site following rejection by the Savoy Hotel.
- To progress the search for a partner organisation to enable the IEEE UK and Ireland Section to offer its members Professional Registration and to improve industrial relationships.
- The CT scanner milestone has now been mounted at the former EMI Research site in Hayes.

Women in Engineering

WIE also has undergone leadership changes and now have a restructured committee (increasing from 8 to 18 members), 5 focused working groups and 14 projects. WIE member and past Chair, Annabel Latham was awarded 2023 IEEE Region 8 Outstanding Women in Engineering Section Volunteer. 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 key plans and initiatives are:

- WIE Ambassadors scheme developed to mentor and involve early career women and students.
- 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.
- Ongoing active Early career talks – Ambassadors scheme
- Early Professionals career days arranged:
    - Challenges and opportunities (10th May 2023)
    - A celebration of women engineers in Scottish universities (INWED) 2023 Roger Gordon University/ Aberdeen (23ʳᵈ June 2023)
    - Women in smart cities (24-27 September 2023)
    - Joint event with IEEE YP-PG stem research symposium (Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne. (28th October 2023)
    - Women in IoT at WF-IoT conference Portugal, (17-20 October 2023)
    - IEEE smart grid comm 2023-6g communications for sustainable energy management and net-zero workshop (31 October - 3 November 2023)
    - 2nd WISC at IEEE CAMAD, (6-8 November 2023)
- Two STEM schools' outreaches – practice interviews, QMUL's girls in Tech workshop.
- Awards & Projects: IEEE UK&I Award - 2nd Jun 2023
- Professional development- 4th International conference on Intelligent Engineering and Management (ICIEM 2023) and 2nd Career development day - Theme: Energy/Electric power - Nottingham university, Oct 2023. In addition, there was IEEE Women In Engineering panel in Dec 2023 at Globecom 2023
- Technical co-sponsor
    - 4th International conference on Intelligent Engineering and Management (ICIEM 2023
    - The 58th Universities Power Engineering Conference (UPEC) at Technological University Dublin
    - The 9th International Symposium for Optical Interconnect in Data Centres at ECOC2023
    - Cyber-RCI 2023, 24th November 2023
- Invited Speaker Participation:
    - UCL International Women in Engineering Day (INWED) 2023
    - WiCAS at the 2023 IEEENEWCAS Edinburgh 2023
    - Ruth Lennon-WiP IEEE PES SBC CET in collaboration with WiP IEEE PES SBC TKMCE in their Breaking Barriers series.

Around 10% of WIE members are actively volunteering and supporting in delivering successful programmes. This year WIE activities increased from 10 activities in 2022 to 27 activities in 2023. The Ambassadors' YouTube Channel that broadcasts recorded WIE events had an average of 100 views for their playing list.

Young Professionals

A new team with 12 volunteers with representation in all major cities across the UK and Ireland was established. With these team of 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 6 years, the Affinity Group has transformed itself to a vibrant group within the section, successfully hosting a number of events including half-day networking seminars, an entrepreneurial bootcamp, and a three-day cross-regional conference attracting some high-profile local speakers and local as well as overseas attendees. A lot of effort is required by volunteers to host medium-scale events. This can be challenging and varies across the section as volunteer commitment is dependent on their research workload and availability.

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 cooperated with R9 on IHTC 2023. Currently, the SIGHT group is exploring the feasibility of a Humanitarian Information Portal initiative to help refugees around the world. The current goals include:

- New focus on what technological innovations can do for the plight of refugees and displaced people
- Have liaised with the organisers of IHTC and transfer of experience and collateral from holding this in the section in December 2021

- A draft System Requirements Specification was developed in 2022, focused on an online information exchange for displaced people and refugees
- Successful delivery and reporting of a proposal on "Inclusive multi-sensor platform for autistic kids that encourage social interaction".
- Focus on a new proposal on developing a Humanitarian Information Portal. A draft specification developed currently undergoing a final review by committee

Blockchain

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 and plans include:

- Local group meetings to discuss the group status and future activities
- Virtual Event on 15ᵗʰ January 2024 – Lecture Series on Enabling Techniques For 6G
- In-person or virtual event in April 2024 - Lecture Series on O-RAN
- In-person IEEE COMSOC Distinguished Lecturer Tour in Summer 2024 by Dr. Nicola Marchetti to visit University of Essex and Imperial College London

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.

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 36 technical societies represented in the UK and Ireland, the latest being the IEEE Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics, and Frequency Control Society (UFFC20). Societies that currently do not yet have a UK and Ireland chapter are:

- IEEE Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Society (NPS05)
- IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Society (ITSS38)
- IEEE Product Safety Engineering Society (PSE43)

In fourth-quarter of 2022, 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)
	Actively support and include Student Chapters
	Employability (start-ups / accelerators)
Others	Ethics standards/policies. Covid-19 certificates/ roadmap

During the Section Autumn Meeting (hybrid format) on 20th of October 2023, Chapter Chairs presented planned activities for 2024 as well as key achievements and member services delivered in 2023. 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 Chapter requests. There are a number of chapters that has undergone leadership changes as per the section key goals for 2023. Chapter revivals were also undertaken.

Chapter Chairs agreed that collaboration on join events on topics of common interest should be widely promoted. To promote collaboration, capacity building and active involvement by local volunteers, it is strongly recommended that multiple technical chapters and affinity groups shold be involved as co-sponsors for conferences taking place in the Section

The next section of this report provides a list of the Section's Chapter and AGs with their L31 reports submitted for 2023. The charts report on the total activities, the technical events alone and professional activities separately. Finally, the total L31 events reported during the last 5 years are presented.

L31 Events Reporting - 2023

	Year on Year Reporting	Total	Technical	Profess.	Admin
	2023				
CH08505	AES10	9	8	0	1
CH08039	AP03/ED15/MTT17/PHO36	0	0	0	0
CH08863	AP03/MTT17-Scotland	2	2	0	0
CH08401	BT02/CT08	0	0	0	0
CH08031	C16	0	0	1	0
CH08030	CAS04	5	5	0	0
CH08381	CIS11	3	2	1	0
CH08045	COM19	17	15	0	2
CH08415	COM19/CS23 (IRELAND)	6	6	0	0
CH08032	CS23	2	2	0	0
CH08678	DEI32	4	4	0	0
CH084521	E25	0	0	0	0
CH08738	ED15 (SCOTLAND)	4	2	0	2
CH08729	ED15/PHO36 (DUBLIN)	0	0	0	0
CH08284	EMB18	7	5	0	2
CH08086	EMC27	3	1	0	2
CH08842	GRS29	0	0	0	0
CH08239	IA34	0	0	0	0
CH08623	IE13	1	1	0	0
CH08379	IM09	6	5	0	1
CH08258	IT12	0	0	0	0
LM80015	LM	2	0	2	0
CH08035	MAG33	3	3	0	0
CH08127	NANO42	3	0	3	0

CH08432	OE22	13	5	2	6
CH10142	PE31	54	37	5	12
CH08113	PEL35	4	3	0	1
CH08211	PHO36	0	0	0	0
CH08185	RL07/EP21	1	1	0	0
CH10141	RA24	7	2	1	4
R80015	Section	23	8	5	10
CH08804	SEN39	1	1	0	0
CH08667	SIT30	17	17	0	0
CH08371	SMC28	24	22	1	1
CH08650	SMC28 (Ireland)	9	9	0	0
CH08814	SMC28 (Portsmouth)	0	0	0	0
CH08072	SP01	4	3	0	1
CH08307	SSC37 Scotland	0	0	0	0
CH08286	SSC37 Ireland	8	6	0	2
CH08834	SYS45	0	0	0	0
CH08034	TEM14/PC26	0	0	0	0
CH08518	UFFC	2	0	0	2
CH08709	VT06	0	0	0	0
WE80015	WIE	16	12	3	1
YP80015	YP	0	4	2	1
	Student Activities (STB, SBC)	45	32	3	7
	Sum	305	223	29	58

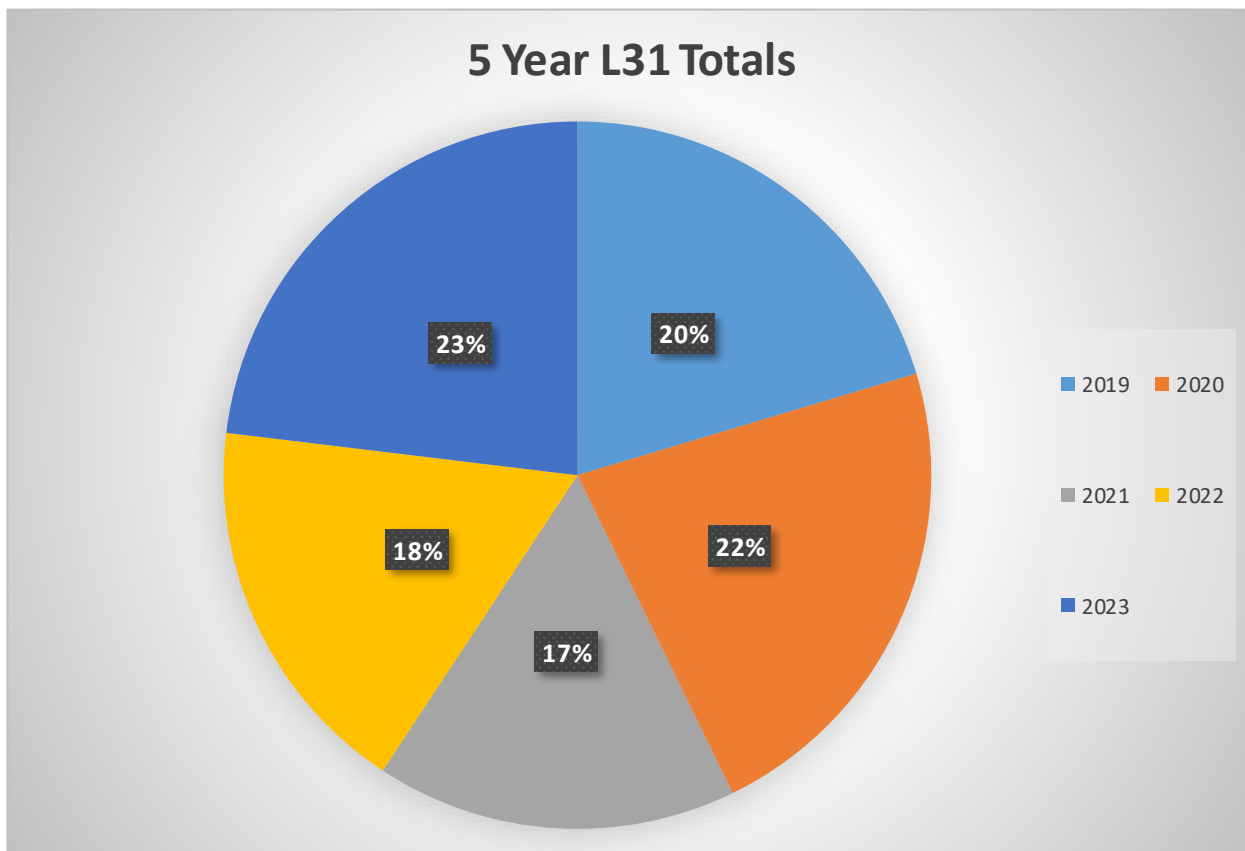## 2023 L31 Reporting- Total
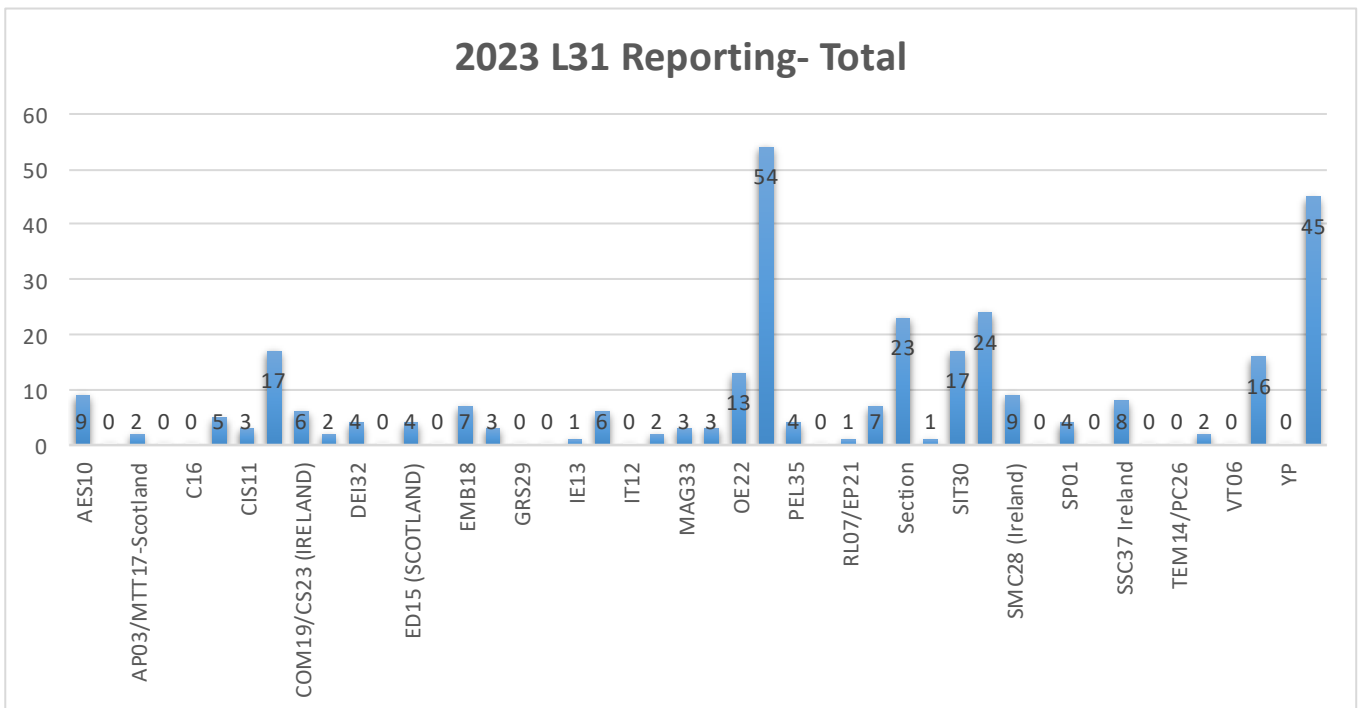
2023 L31 Reporting -Professional Activities
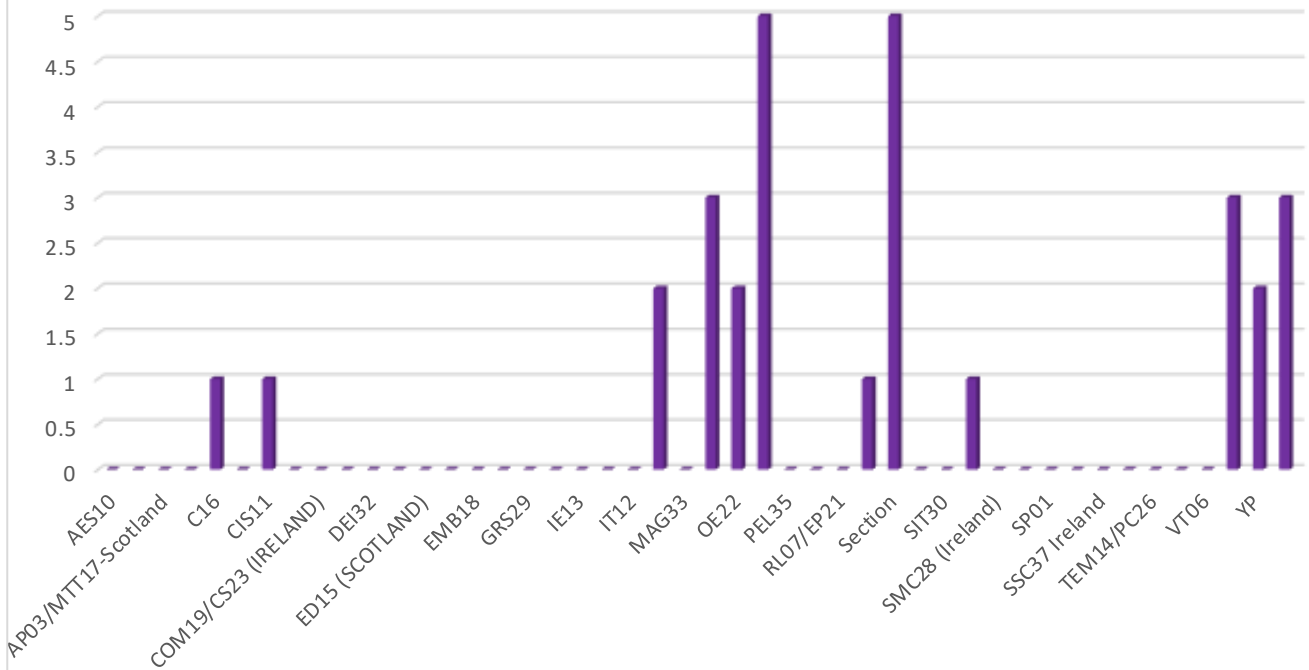
2023 L31 Reporting - Technical Activities

5 Year L31 Totals
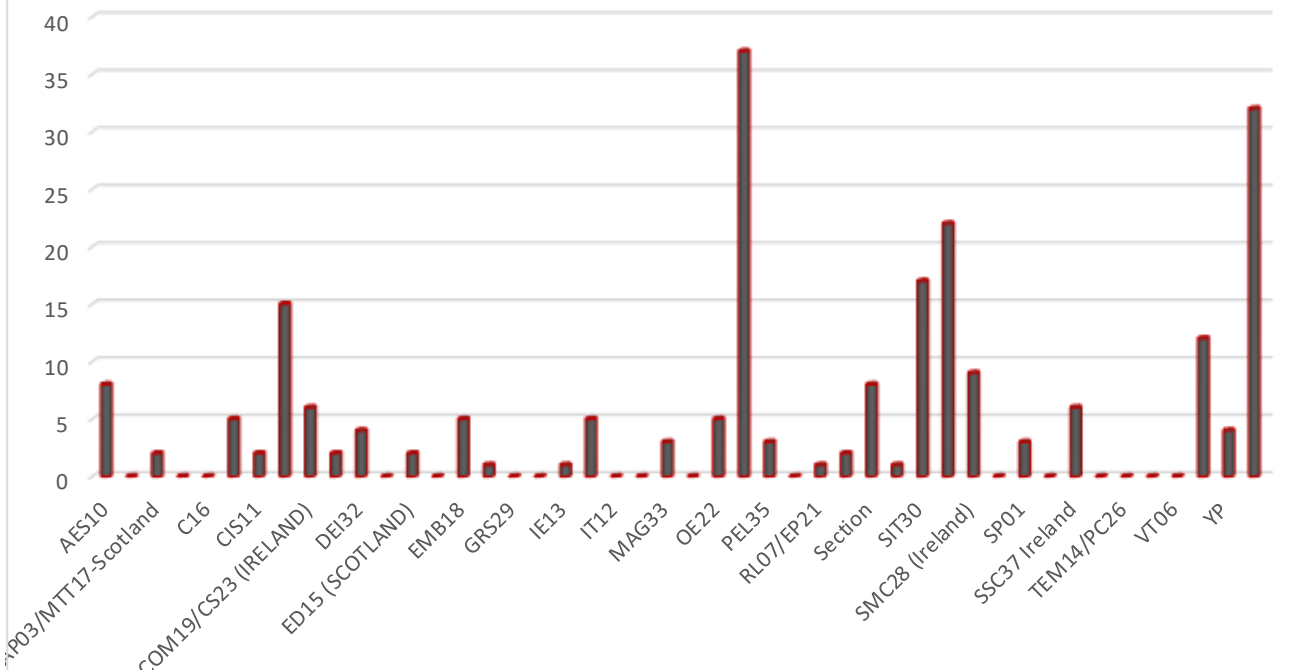
Industry

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

The United Kingdom and Ireland section has an Industry Liaison Officer and 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 were put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic we continue to develop our offering. A key potential 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. Find below the plan of activities:

- Understand potential 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 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 in 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.

Plans and achievements in 2023:
- A series of EDI talks have been arranged
- Planning for the EDI symposium (hybrid)
- Reaching out to the UK and Ireland Universities EDI Committee for wider impact
- Prof James McLaughlin, OBE, delivered the annual talk for DEI group (September 28, 2023)
- EDI panel scheduled for IEEE COINS 2024.
- Coordinated with QUB's Racial Equality Networks for outreach

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 Achievements:
- The Section continue to support YP and Student Branches who attended the IEEE Western European Students & Young Professionals Congress, Sep 2023, EPFL, Lausanne, with funding for 10 Attendees
- Continuing with Milestone events with a new one identified and one coming up soon.
- Awarded "Outstanding Member Recruitment Performance Certificate 2023"
- Section officer and Life Member, Charles Turner received the R8 LMAG Achievement Award
- Section officer and past chair of WIE, Annabel Latham was awarded the Region 8 Outstanding Women in Engineering Section Volunteer Award
- Section successfully conducted the Vice-chair election for the Vice-chair for 2024-2025

The Section continue to work on the following:
- Chapter petitions to merge replicating units is continuing.
- Major drive to realise our Chapter and Section Officer succession plans, with new officers including some new chairs with improved DEI balance This is an ongoing process to create a sustainable volunteer pipeline.
- Past Chairs to be acknowledged on the Chapter Websites permanently with plaques and official recognition for all Past Chapter Chairs.
- Excellent activity profile from our Chapters and groups, and amongst the top in Region 8
- Continued drive to make nominations for awards for our Section and its volunteers.

Areas of Improvement:
- The section encourages all chapters to engage with the Section for feedback before submission of Conference sponsorship and MOUs. Collaboration with at least 3 technical chapters or affinity groups are encouraged.
- Procedure for Financial support request and approval - Ongoing efforts are in place.
- Chapter/Section Officer Leadership - Succession planning and Terms of Office as per MGA rules
- L31 submissions - Ease and automate the process of L31 submissions
- Re-initiate more face-to-face activities- This is now in full swing and working very well- Face to face Section meetings recently in Glasgow, Dublin, Caerdydd and London

Planned activities

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

The UK and Ireland Section priorities are:

➢ Continue to Activate Inactive Chapters & Student Branches with Cross Disciplinary Events at the Section, Region & International Levels

➢ Proactively promote Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (IEEE DEI)

➢ Professional Registration Activities to be re-visited and re-evaluated

➢ Continue to register all activities and events on the Section Website

➢ Continue the Section award scheme for those Chapters that delivers most impact (including events) in a year, to intrinsically facilitate and support other Chapters

The next Section Spring Meeting (AGM) will take place in late April 2024.

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.
- Senior Membership: As this is an IEEE-wide challenge, we would like to get support from Region 8 to reduce the manual processes needed to be carried out by volunteers as much as possible.
- The Section wish to open a motion where both Technical and Professional activities can be considered a spart of the minimal requirements 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 which they classified as "Professional" instead of Technical. Despite the impact of these events and associated planning and hard work, this chapter will not be considered as compliant due to having zero "Technical" events.

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 challenges the Chapter experienced, necessary actions and support are agreed. Sometimes this requires a change in leadership or support to create a volunteer pipeline to ensure sustainability.

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:
- Develop clear definition and scope of Professional Activities and present it to Section Chair and Vice-Chair
- Complete background review of PA in the Section and other IEEE OUs.
- Complete IEEE Centre for Leadership Excellence course for PA Chairs.
- Develope a vision and strategy for PA in the Section.
- Liaise 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.