

**IEEE UK and Ireland Section****Reporting Officer Name: Paul Cunningham (Section Chair)****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.*

**Section Elections**

The election of the Section Secretary and Section Treasurer by IEEE UK and Ireland Members via eBallot was concluded on 06 December 2024. The term for the elected Section Secretary and Section Treasurer runs from 01 January 2025 – 31 December 2026.

The Section Vice-Chair was elected in 2023 for the 2024 – 2025 term and will become the Section Chair in 2026.

The next election for the 2026 – 2027 Section Vice-Chair will be undertaken during 2025.

**Annual General Meeting**

The IEEE UK and Ireland Section held the 2025 Annual General Meeting as a virtual meeting on 19 March 2025 to facilitate participation from members across our geographically diverse Section. This meeting was well attended. This provided an opportunity to raise awareness of the Sections achievements over the past twelve months as well as current and planned activities. It also provided an opportunity to raise awareness of the Call for Nominations and Election process for the Section Vice-Chair for 2026 – 2027, which will commence in August 2025.

**ExCom Meetings**

Two in-person ExCom meetings were held in 2024 – Spring ExCom Meeting on 26 April 2024, Edinburgh and Autumn Section Meeting on 03 – 04 October, Dublin. These meeting were already reported in the R8 report submitted in October 2024.

The Spring in person ExCom Meeting is scheduled on 11 April 2025 in Manchester.

**Membership**

Membership of UK and Ireland Section has been relatively stable in recent years, with over 10,000 members.

As at 01 March 2025, OU Analytics reported 11,275 members - c.50% Member Grade; c.15% Senior Member Grade; c.20% Graduate Student Members' and c.5% Life Members.

A key challenge for IEEE UK and Ireland Section is our geographic diversity, with a tendency in the past to concentrate activities around Greater London, with the exception of a rotation of Section Meetings taking place outside London.

During 2024 and 2025, there is a specific focus on engagement with members, student branches, young professionals and life members. This includes organization of membership engagement events and student branch and affinity group events across the Section to support engagement with local members. During 2024 five in-person membership engagement meetings were organized - Edinburgh (25<sup>th</sup> April), London (30<sup>th</sup> September), Liverpool (1<sup>st</sup> October), Dublin (4<sup>th</sup> October) and London (17<sup>th</sup> December). Membership engagement events will continue during 2025 to support in-person engagement with IEEE Members. Dr James Irving provided a virtual lecture on "Open Access and Rights Retention Policy" on 05 December 2024.

The Section Chair has more actively engaged with members providing regular updates on Section achievements, activities, Senior Member elevation and encouraging new volunteers to support a range of Section activities via eNotice, Engage, the Section website and direct engagement during meetings. There was significant engagement with Members during the Call for Nominations and Election process for officers for 24 Organizational Units reporting to the Section from July – December 2024 actively encouraging members to volunteer to support their Chapter, Council or Affinity Group. This level of engagement has continue in 2025 with a number of Chapter and Affinity Group elections currently ongoing.

A report on section activities, achievements and Section, Chapter, Council and Affinity Group officer elections during 2024 was sent to all Section Members in early January 2025 via eNotice and published on the website to ensure that all members are well informed and feel more engaged with the Section.

During February 2025 the Section Chair sent a personalized email to each member who membership had not yet been renewed raising awareness of the membership renewal deadline and benefits. This interaction was appreciated by members.

**Senior Member Elevation**

During 2024, the Section Chair identified ExCom members who were not Senior Members, encouraged them to apply and supported them to commence the process. Chapter and Councils Chair were requested to actively follow up with Members and support elevation. Direct support was also provided to other Section Members upon request.

During 2024 130 members of the UK and Ireland Section were elevated to Senior Member. An eNotice was circulated to all Section Members in December congratulating these members on this achievement and those elevated were recognized on the Section website.

During February 2025, the Section engaged with Senior Members inviting them to volunteer as part of a Support Panel for Senior Member Elevation. A separate engagement was undertaken with those of Member Grade to raise awareness of the requirements and benefits of Senior Member Elevation. This was followed up by an awareness meeting on 20 February to provide more insight and facilitate questions and discussion. This session was well received with a lot of discussion.

The Section has published a new section on the Section website with information on Senior Member Elevation, links to the recording of the Senior Member Elevation awareness session on 20 February and recognition of members elevated per year from 2020.

The Section is providing active support to members to increase the quality and relevance of submissions for Senior Member Elevation and to support identification of additional references as required.

### **IEEE Volunteer Leadership Training (VoLT) Program 2024 Graduates**

Three UK and Ireland Chapter / Affinity Group Officers were accepted into and graduated from the IEEE 2024 VoLT program, which ran from September – December 2024:

- **Miriam Cunningham** (IEEE UK and Ireland SSIT Chapter Chair);
- **Ruth Lennon** (IEEE UK and Ireland WIE Vice-Chair); and
- **Naghm Saeed** (Section Vice-Chair).

As part of the VoLT program, participants are grouped into international project teams. They are tasked with coming up with project ideas that are relevant to support IEEE and their Sections, preparing a project business plan and presenting their results within a specific time frame. All projects are then reviewed by the VoLT Mentors and graded.

The “**IEEE Industry Hub: Strengthening Professional Communities project**” prepared by the VOLT NoVA Team including **Miriam Cunningham, Ruth Lennon (UK and Ireland Section)**, Anjana Dodampe (Sri Lanka Section), Anum Tariq (Lahore Section), Munjandira Chengappa (Bangalore Section), Akhil Raj (India) was awarded **2<sup>nd</sup> Prize in the VoLT 2024 Projects Competition**. The concepts from this project are now being implemented in the IEEE UK and Ireland Section.

### **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 IEEE UK and Ireland Section has 50 registered Student Branches. The section has 32 SBs in England, 9 in Ireland, 7 in Scotland and 2 in Wales.

### **Engagement with Student Branches & Capacity Building Activities**

During 2024 and Q1 2025, the IEEE UK and Ireland Section has intensified engagement with Student Branches, Student Branch Chapters and Student Branch Counsellors as part of our member engagement strategy for 2024 – 2025. The three in-person Student Branch events in London, Liverpool and Dublin with participation of Dr Tom Coughlin, 2024 IEEE President during IEEE Week 2024 were reported in the October 2024 report.

Given the number of student branches and the geographic diversity of our Section, a regional based Committee has been established for 2025 with a specific Committee members with experience within a well-functioning student branch taking responsibility for supporting student branches for Ireland and Northern Ireland; Scotland; Central and Northern England; and Southern England and Wales.

During January 2025, each Student Activities Committee Member followed up directly with the Student Branch officers and Student Branch Counsellors to whom they are providing direct support to explain the reporting processes including Annual Reporting for 2025 and associated deadlines. This was followed up by two virtual Education Activities/Capacity Building activities:

- Student Branch Officer Training, 27 February 2025
- Student Branch Activities, 06 March 2025

A number of Regional in-person knowledge sharing and capacity building activities will be organized during 2025 to supplement virtual activities. This strategy is focused around supporting collaboration and knowledge sharing between Student Branches and Student Branch Counsellors.

Student Branches are being encouraged to adopt a city-wide approach to organization of events, to achieve greater scale and impact and to achieve regular rotation between universities providing free venues. They are also being encouraged to actively

engage with technical chapters to access IEEE Distinguished Lecturers for both in-person and virtual technical events. This is a key way of ensuring a high level of technical events and encourage students to retain membership after leaving university.

### Newly Formed Student Branches and Student Branch Chapters

As a direct result of engagement with institutions and organizing the 2024 IEEE Week in-person activities, the following Students Branches were formed over the past months:

- University of Liverpool Student Branch (December 2024)
- University of Leicester Student Branch (December 2024)
- Swansea University Student Branch (August 2024)

Newly formed Student Branch Chapters include:

- University of Edinburgh Solid-State Circuits Society Student Branch Chapter (Feb '25)
- University of Liverpool Student Branch (December 2024)
- University of Leicester Student Branch (December 2024)
- University of Dublin Trinity College Communications Society Student Branch Chapter (November 2024)
- University of Limerick Intelligent Transportation Systems Society Student Branch Chapter (November 2024)
- University College London Circuits and Systems Society Student Branch Chapter (September 2024)

### Awards/Competitions

Two teams from IEEE UK and Ireland Section (BRIS Team, University of Limerick and ElectroWarriors, Maynooth University) were selected to compete as finalists in the **2024 IEEE Region 8 Robot Championship, Malta, 23 - 24 November '24**. The members of the BRIS Team, University of Limerick were Ben Bartlett, Marco Moreno, Tom Dorian, mentored by Petar Trslic.

The members of the ElectroWarriors Team, Maynooth University were Adil Farooq, Tadhg Creagh, Eoghan Mooney, mentored by Peter Redmond.

We are pleased to announce these teams won 4 Awards in the Championship:

- **Overall Winner** – BRIS, University of Limerick
- **Best Pushing Power Award Winner** - BRIS, University of Limerick
- **Best Tactics Award Winner** – ElectroWarriors, Maynooth University
- **Manoeuvrability Award Winner** - BRIS, University of Limerick

### 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 IEEE UK and Ireland Section has well-established Life Members, Women in Engineering and Young Professional Affinity Groups.

#### Life Members

The Life Member Affinity Group has undertaken the election of officers for the 2025 – 2026 term through an open call for nominations and voting by members via vTools eBallot.

The key achievements and plans of the Affinity Group includes:

- The Anderson Bridge Milestone approved by IEEE Board of Directors: Celebration planned for Galway during 2025
- Final Approval Stage – Manchester Code Milestone
- Under review by IEEE History Society - Milestone for Colossus Code Breaking Machine at Bletchley Park; LEO Computer Milestone
- Proposal Stage – Travelling Wave Tube Milestone

#### Women in Engineering

An election of Women in Engineering AG Officers will be undertaken during 2025 for the 2026 – 2027 term.

WIE has organised three training sessions on “Team Working and Development” during October 2024. WIE submitted a bid to host WIE ILS 2025 in 6 cities across the Section, which was successful.

On 11 February 2025, WIE co-hosted a lecture by Prof Hatice Gunes on “Social Alignment in Robotics: Promoting Human Wellbeing Through Adaptive Robotic Coaches” in the context of Girls and Women STEM Day in cooperation with IEEE UK and Ireland RAS and SSIT Chapters.

2025 Plans include

- Organising WIE ILS 2025 in London, Nottingham, Liverpool, Leeds, Letterkenny and Limerick.
- Supporting leadership training.
- Ongoing active Early career talks – Ambassadors scheme

#### Young Professionals

During 2024 the Young Professional Affinity Group undertook officer elections for the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary for the 2024 – 2025 term.

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 a mix of both virtual and co-located in-person events organized with IEEE conferences and membership engagements events across the Section.

From October 2024 – January 2025 the Young Professional AG co-organised six guest lectures in cooperation with the IEEE UK and Ireland APS/MTT Joint Chapter as well as two Career events sharing insights from Academic and Industry speakers.

#### **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.*

The UK and Ireland Section has 31 Chapters and 3 Technical Councils.

#### **Elections / Compliance / Chapter, Council Election Support**

During 2024, **20 Chapters, 3 Councils** and **1 Affinity Group** (YP) undertook officer elections with voting by OU Members via eBallot.

There are **7 Chapters** and **1 Affinity Group** whose officers terms expired in December 2024 and are due to undertake elections for the 2025 – 2026 term. Since January 2025, four Chapters and 1 Affinity Group are currently undergoing elections and these will be finalised during March and April. Three Chapters have not yet commenced the call for chapter election Committee Members or Call for Nominations.

Completing this scale of elections was only possible based on support provided by a small number of dedicated local volunteers who held individual briefing meetings with each Chapter/Council/AG Elections Committee, prepared standard documentation for the call for nominations and election process (Standard eNotice to invite volunteers to serve on a OU Elections Committee; OU Elections Committee Meeting Agenda; OU Officer Role Description; OU Officer Application Form; Call for Nominations eNotice), providing support to the Elections Committee as required including circulating eNotices to OU members and training on setting up slates in vTools eBallot.

#### **Chapter Education Activities / Capacity Building**

The IEEE UK and Ireland Section provides active support to Chapters, Council and Affinity Groups on an ongoing basis. Capacity Building Activities organised to date during 2025 include

- OU Officer Training, 29 January 2025
- vTools Training, 06 February 2025

#### **Chapter / Council Reporting**

Each Chapter and Council submits reports to the Section twice per year in advance of the Spring and Autumn Section Meeting.

During the Spring 2025 Section Meeting, each OU reporting to the Section will present its achievements, lessons learnt and plans for the future to strengthen capacity building and institutional knowledge within the Section.

#### **L31 Events Reporting of Technical Meetings – January – December 2024**

Code	UK and Ireland Section Organisational Unit	Technical Meetings Reported Jan - Dec 2024
CH08505	IEEE Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society Chapter	9
CH08863	IEEE APS/MTT Joint Chapter	12
CH08030	IEEE Circuits and Systems Society Chapter	14
CH08045	IEEE Communications Society Chapter	14
CH08381	IEEE Computational Intelligence Society Chapter	4
CH08031	IEEE Computer Society Chapter	12
CH08415	IEEE Control and Communications Societies Joint Chapter	6

CH08032	IEEE Control Systems Society Chapter	3
CH08678	IEEE Dielectrics and Electrical Insulation Society Chapter	3
CH08452	IEEE Education Society Chapter	2
CH08086	IEEE Electromagnetic Compatibility Society Chapter	1
CH08738	IEEE Electron Devices Society Chapter	3
CH08185	IEEE Electronic Packaging and Reliability Joint Chapter	2
CH08284	IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society Chapter	4
CH08842	IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society Chapter	2
CH08239	IEEE Industry Applications Society Chapter	2
CH08258	IEEE Information Theory Society Chapter	4
CH08379	IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Society Chapter	1
CH08528	IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Society Chapter	2
CH08035	IEEE Magnetics Society Chapter	0
CH08127	IEEE Nanotechnology Council	7
CH08432	IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society Chapter	8
CH08211	IEEE Photonics Society Chapter	0
CH10142	IEEE Power & Energy Society Chapter	38
CH08113	IEEE Power Electronics Society Chapter	10
CH10141	IEEE Robotics and Automation Society Chapter	2
CH08804	IEEE Sensors Council	4
CH08072	IEEE Signal Processing Society	2
CH08667	IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology Chapter	18
CH08286	IEEE Solid-State Circuits Society	4
CH08834	IEEE Systems Council	0
CH08371	IEEE Systems Man and Cybernetics Chapter	27
CH08518	IEEE Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics, and Frequency Control Society	2
CH08709	IEEE Vehicular Technology Society Chapter	3
WE80015	IEEE Women in Engineering AG	8
YP80015	IEEE Young Professionals AG	6
LM80015	IEEE Life Members AG	3
Total Chapter, Council, Affinity Group Meetings Reported Jan - Dec 2024		242

## Industry

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

Industry is a very important constituency within the IEEE UK and Ireland Section, accounting for c. 25% of our membership

The IEEE UK and Ireland Section has actively engaged with industry and government stakeholders as well as Sister Societies during 2024 through a number of complementary activities including supporting Senior Member Elevation, organising a series of public engagement meetings during IEE Week 2024 on topics relevant to industry and government as well as engagement with Sister Societies in Ireland (Engineers Ireland) and United Kingdom (IET).

In February 2025 the Section launched a Call for Volunteers to support Industry engagement with a good response from industry, government and education and research sectors.

The Section Industry Engagement Volunteer team will facilitate industry and government engagement activities, including

- Identifying the needs and expectations of members and prospective members from industry (including entrepreneurs) as well as government



- Supporting the co-design, implementation and delivery of appropriate education and capacity building of students, entrepreneurs and industry and government professionals, and
- Supporting community building, networking & career development opportunities, partnering with IEEE Society Chapters, Young Professionals, Student Branches and Life Members.
- Section members will continue to contribute to the IEEE Ethics Certification Program and IEEE 7000 series of standards supporting Ethical AI, supporting further industry engagement
- Raise Public Awareness of Prestige associated with Senior Membership
- Publicly recognised Members elevated to Senior Member Grade
- Senior Member Elevation Awareness raising session, 19 February 2025

### **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>](#).*

As a founding member of the IEEE TAB Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, the Section Chair is committed to supporting an inclusive environment for all current and prospective IEEE Members and Volunteers. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion should be a cultural norm for IEEE. This was a key driver for example of focusing at least one of the IEEE Week events around the Diverse Technology and Engineering Workforce in the Future as a public message and an opportunity to share different perspectives and life experiences. Chapter Chairs and Committee leadership are being actively encouraged to ensure volunteer teams reflect diversity of perspective and life experience to better reflect and serve our members.

The Section Chair is a core member of the TAB DEI team which is co-designing capacity building training resources which will be field tested with IEEE Societies and Councils during 2025. These resources which are oriented around delivery via participatory workshops will then be made available for field testing with UK and Ireland Section volunteers and other interested members in different regions of our Section to identify necessary adaptation for the communities we serve.

### **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*

- Supported 24 Chapters, 3 Councils and 2 Affinity Groups to successfully undertake officer elections
- Successfully delivered series of public membership engagement events in London, Liverpool, Dublin
- Supported Capability building and training with Chapters, Councils, Affinity Groups and Student Branches
- Successfully launched Calls for Volunteers to support Senior Member Elevation and Industry Engagement
- Held Annual General Meeting with members on 19 March 2025
- Life Member Affinity Group have submitted a number of Milestones which are at the final approval stage and review stage.

### **Planned activities**

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

- Regional membership engagement activities to bring IEEE closer to its membership
- Focus on strengthening collaboration between student branches, affinity groups and chapter at regional level
- Launching Student Branch Counsellor Network