

CHAIRMAN'S THIRD QUARTER REPORT, JANUARY 2021

Oliver Tolputt, Chairman, CECA NW

I am pleased to provide the following report of the third quarter, in my second year as Chairman of CECA NW, together with details of plans for the rest of the year. I am grateful for the support I have received from my fellow CECA NW directors as well as the Executive Committee and the NW membership, in delivering a programme to continue to meet members' needs and aspirations.

As we approached Christmas, with vaccinations starting to be given, I had high hopes that some sort of normality was about to return, after almost a year of having to adapt to the impact of COVID-19. That optimism has proved short-lived as another lockdown is now in place, and the face-to-face meetings we have all been looking forward to will need to be put back a little longer.

While our Executive Committee meetings remain virtual, for the time being, we are actively planning CECA NW's flagship events for 2021, with the hope that the 2020 awards can be presented at our North by NW dinner in May, followed by our Golf Day in July, and the Awards dinner in Manchester in October. We will proceed with all three events, but only if it is safe to do so.

Following on from the commercial and legal webinars we ran in 2020, Geraldine Fleming of Driver Trett will be delivering even more in the first half of 2021, with a full programme running up to the summer. As ever, any ideas for subjects to cover would be gratefully received.

Contact with schools and colleges, being impossible face-to-face right now, has led to our development of a toolkit to enable members to liaise with our next generation of civil engineers. It is available free of charge to all CECA NW members.

Although contact with clients has also been difficult, CECA NW continues to work closely with Sellafield (especially with regard to its IAC framework), Network Rail NW & Central, Transport for the North and Northern Powerhouse Rail, to name just a few.

Within CECA NW, we are also implementing a number of operational changes both to introduce greater efficiencies, and to offer members an enhanced level of service. That will see a new team-based approach that will come into effect in summer 2021, with Alison Shea and Joe Fitzgibbon joining Chris Jackson and Jacqueline Vail, and with Guy Lawson taking a new part-time role. I firmly believe that the new arrangements will significantly enhance what we currently offer.

The last twelve months have required that all of us adapt, and the feedback from CECA NW members has been invaluable in helping to shape our priorities and meet the needs of members. That has enabled us to turn our attention to a range of issues raised, including PII renewal, Red Diesel, fair payment and a more equitable approach to risk.

Your participation is essential to ensure we remain member-focused. After all, CECA NW is your Association and we rely on members to let us know what CECA's priorities should be. I would urge you to contact me or our director, Guy Lawson, with suggestions for us to implement on your behalf.

Thank you for your continued support.

Oliver Tolputt, Chairman, CECA NW, January 2021
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