

Samantha Mary Genevieve Russell BSc FCA

**Partner
Mazars**

Personal introduction:

I became a member of ICAEW in 1997 and have been in audit most of the time since I started. I have worked overseas, both on longer term secondments and also with many international clients. I have also spent 2 years working as a finance director, which provides invaluable experience when I returned to audit.

I am an audit partner at Mazars, one of the main challenger firms, with a specialism in retail and consumer business. I am keen to understand how business works, looking at the current opportunities and challenges for businesses, and seeking solutions. My clients and work are both national and international, predominately US, Germany, France, Switzerland and India.

I act as a mentor and coach, and really enjoy having this rewarding role for younger members and non-accountants.

My family are important to me. With two young girls, I am keen to ensure I spend as much time with them, whilst also working full time, so make the most of flexible and agile working.

Involvement with ICAEW:

My involvement with ICAEW started at the London Society, attending and then presenting at events for both business members and younger members. I became the President of the London Society in June 2007, which was a great honour and a highlight of my career.

I have continued working with the London Society in areas of business and younger members, two areas I am passionate about.

I have been a member of the Learning & Professional Development Board of ICAEW for seven years, the last three as the chair. During this time, we have seen many changes to both the exams of the ACA, with the introduction of apprenticeships, and also with developing internationally. This has been rewarding and also challenging, and I have thoroughly enjoyed it.

As a member of ICAEW Board for the last 3 years, I have contributed to discussions and challenged and supported the board.

I have been a member of Council for 3 years now. During this time, I have been speaking to many members, predominately those in business, younger members and those having children or career breaks to understand how they would like to be engaged with ICAEW, and what they would like from ICAEW.

Motivation and ability to be a member of Council:

I feel ICAEW Council needs to be agile and truly representative of the members. As such, I am keen to continue interacting with business members, younger members and those with young families or returning to work. As I am no longer on LPD and the main board, this will give me additional time to invest and contribute to ensure I can meet with members and ensure a wide range of views are represented at council discussions and business.

Strategic focus:

As an audit partner, I am acutely aware of the challenges facing the profession generally and also those who are at an earlier stage of their career and may be concerned or interested in how the profession is going to develop and what the role of an auditor will be going forward, particularly outside the Big 4.

With a focus on retail and consumer businesses in my role at Mazars, the knowledge and skills, as well as the insights I obtain from clients and contacts will be brought to the strategic plans of ICAEW.

Communication with members in the constituency:

I intend to continue to interact with members in London. I feel the areas that I can particularly focus on are those younger members, at earlier and key stages of transitions in their careers. Also the business members in London are less well represented and so I will continue to meet and canvas their views and concerns and bring this to the council meetings and interactions with ICAEW.

NOMINATED BY:

- David Mark Symes
- Laura J Dymott
- Constantinos Elia Ioannou
- David John Paul
- Evie Marjorie Bowyer