

Helen Rahman Brennan BA FCA

**Director
KPMG**

Personal introduction:

I trained as a chartered accountant with Shipleys from 1995 to 1999 and have since gained 19 years post-qualification experience with KPMG in audit and in internal roles including technical accounting, risk management and thought leadership around audit quality, trust and responsible business.

I am an assurance specialist leading the development of practical tools and technical content to support the delivery of assurance services over non-financial subject matter. I'm currently working on KPMG's Brexit planning for audit.

I'm also a trustee/director of Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea UK), an agency of the Catholic Bishops Conferences of England & Wales and of Scotland, where I chair the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee.

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Involvement with ICAEW:

I am standing for re-election to Council having served one four-year term already. As a member of Council, I sit on ICAEW's Diversity Advisory Group.

I am President of the London Society of Chartered Accountants ("LSCA"), which represents the 37,000 members of ICAEW living and/or working in London. I chair the London CPD committee which has worked with ICAEW to design the "Essentials" CPD programme.

I have been a member of ICAEW's Audit & Assurance Innovation Panel for seven years; in that time I have chaired the working group which converted the Assurance Sourcebook to a web-based resource, contributed to Audit & Beyond and thought leadership publications and developed and presented webinar content.

Motivation and ability to be a member of Council:

Good quality, trustworthy, *trusted* audit and assurance are the foundations of sustainable economic growth – which will be the overall objective for the UK in the challenging geo-political climate of 2019. Maintaining and improving a fair and efficient tax regime will be at the heart of the UK's ability to raise revenue for public spending on infrastructure, training, economic diversification and investment in the regions.

ICAEW's role in widening access to the profession to include all potential talent, as well as training, qualifying and regulating chartered accountants, is critical to all aspects of any plan to grow the UK economy. To serve as a member of Council is, therefore, a significant opportunity to serve the public interest.

I work 21 hours a week, flexibly, for KPMG, allowing both time and flexibility to fulfil the responsibilities of a member of Council.

Strategic focus:

In the section immediately above I outline the challenges facing the UK as a whole in 2019, which will all have an impact on chartered accountants working in business, practice (large or small) and the public sector in London.

Chartered accountants in business will be depended on to develop systems, controls, measurement processes, reporting interfaces and assurance services that facilitate sustainable economic growth, that can be applied to both financial and non-financial capital, and promote a culture of inclusive, fair and responsible business.

Chartered accountants in small practices are faced with the challenge of encouraging small businesses in digital transformation, while effecting their own. They need support to articulate the

value added by a chartered accountant to businesses whose cloud accounting records are largely automated and to demonstrate this value at the interface between small businesses and investors or lenders.

Those in large practices will rightly remain under scrutiny and will need to work to earn back the trust of the public. They will be caught in a perfect storm when the outcome from various reviews into audit competition and regulation collide with the regulatory changes resulting from Brexit.

The public sector will continue to work to deliver more from less, relying greatly on chartered accountants in the finance function and in governance, including the many volunteer chartered accountants who work in public sector governance.

I am an Intelligent leader with a track record of achieving change through empathetic negotiation and inclusive, compassionate leadership. I provide strategic thought and critical challenge based on a wide range of experience, from "brown-paper-bag" accounts preparation to FTSE 100 audit. I am a credible communicator at senior levels, bringing passion and energy to the question of how auditors can best fulfil their role as guardians of the public interest.

Communication with members in the constituency:

I am an active member of LSCA. Although my term as President of LSCA will come to an end in June 2019, I shall continue to sit on the Main Committee of LSCA and attend LSCA events both as a means to access a wide range of views from ICAEW members in London and so that I can continue to volunteer for local activities.

NOMINATED BY:

- Matthew Millane
- Nathan Anthony Steinberg
- Matthew Francis
- George Richards
- Anzo Gloreen Francis