

Text of e-mail sent on 02 April 2019 to James Young, Chair of ICE Scotland in response to call for input for ICE Scotland response to the Presidential Commission – and also sent directly to the ICE Presidential Commission on 02 April 2019 as a contribution to their Stage 1 evidence gathering.

Dear James,

Thank you for your e-mail of 28 March and for the coverage in the latest ICE Scotland e-zine of the ICE Governance Review. I am delighted to see that you have taken a personal lead in publicising this to the membership and requesting feedback and input to be considered by ICE Scotland.

I was extremely concerned at the way the previous governance review was carried out and communicated by ICE Council and this has prompted me to stand as a General Member for Council at the forthcoming election. I fully supported the calling of the Special General Meeting and was one of the speakers supporting Paul Jowitt and Jean Venables in proposing the three motions which were all carried at the SGM and led to this current review.

I have attached for your information and consideration the notes of my contribution to the SGM and specifically my questions about why the change in governance was necessary. No attempt was made to answer these questions either at the SGM or subsequently and I hope that these will be investigated and answered as part of the current review.

It may be that there are valid reasons for changing to a smaller body. However, if this is justified then this should surely be a fully member elected body and not one filled with a majority of non-elected appointees. The ICE is and should remain a member led organisation.

I would also like to see a strategy for increasing participation of the membership in these fundamental decisions and not have them hidden away with other more mundane resolutions as they were on this occasion. Could it not be possible for such key decisions to be included as part of the membership renewal process and payment of subscriptions and include an option to abstain so that all members are required to acknowledge that they are aware of the proposals. As for membership renewal this could be carried out either online or by hard copy documents.

Similarly, with a decision of this magnitude surely it should have been the subject of meetings in all of the ICE regions to discuss the proposals with a detailed justification being put forward by those proposing them and an ability to discuss and challenge them for the membership at large well in advance of the vote taking place.

It would also be worth considering the rules for holding an SGM in future and particularly only allowing those corporate members who attend in person to vote. Surely it should be possible to have a webinar and online voting when matters of such importance are being discussed.

I trust that you will find this contribution helpful and would be happy to discuss further if you wish to contact me.

Best regards
David Climie CEng FICE

The e-mail was also sent directly to the ICE Presidential Commission on 02 April 2019 as a contribution to their Stage 1 evidence gathering.

Response from David Orr on 3rd April, have copied in full below –

Dear Mr Climie,

I am very grateful for your thoughtful and constructive email to the Commission and also to James Young, Chair of ICE Scotland, for encouraging members to contribute.

All submissions such as yours are being collated, will be seen by the Commission, and will be taken into account as we develop our interim report for further consultation.

The process for last year's governance ballot is not within the Commission's Terms of Reference, but there are clear lessons to be learned in terms the transparency and communication that you have highlighted. I hope you will agree that the Commission is taking a different approach.

In this first stage we are seeking submissions from members (seven emails to members and an article in the February NCE), meeting the principal ICE Boards and Committees (including the UK Regional Affairs Committee which has encouraged the regions to feed into the debate), ICE's specialist knowledge societies, open evidence sessions and a Commission web page to keep members informed.

In stage 2 the Commission will develop an Interim Report which will then be the subject of a further round of consultation with the members.

The Commission will certainly be considering the rationale for moving to the smaller Trustee Board, as well as the need to have electronic voting at a Special General Meeting. And I am particularly grateful for your comments in relation to the need to increase participation in voting for these significant ballots and elections.

Many thanks once again, and thank you for standing as a candidate for the ICE Council.

Yours sincerely,

David Orr

Chair - Presidential Commission into ICE Governance