

## 6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CHARTERED SOCIETY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES

31<sup>st</sup> October 2019  
12.20pm

Radisson Blu Glasgow

The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences President Roger Robson opened the meeting at 12.25pm. The meeting was quorate.

Mr Robson (RR) thanked all for attending.

Dr Anya Hunt (AH) was present to answer any business related questions there may be.

### 1 **Apologies**

Formal apologies had been received from members and these were noted:

### 2 **Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> AGM**

The minutes of the previous AGM had been displayed on the Society website and it was proposed to accept them as an accurate record.

This was proposed by Brian Rankin and seconded by Andrew Reid.

#### **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

### 3 **Presentation of Annual Report and Financial Statements**

The Annual Report for 2018-2019 was now completed and available on the CSFS website to view. Mr Robson noted that this was an important document and worth members spending some time to review. There were no questions from the floor on the annual report.

The Annual Report was accepted and ratified by Adam Long and seconded by Marce Lee-Gorman.

### 4 **Election of Council Members**

The following Council members had now stepped down from their roles;

Mr Peter Ellis.

There had been one nomination for the post of Honorary Chair of Quality Standards; Mr Brian Rankin.

Mr Rankin was duly elected unopposed.

There had been one late nomination for the post of Honorary Treasurer; Dr Ben Jones.

Dr Jones was from the University of Abertay, but was unfortunately unable to attend today. Dr Jones was duly elected unopposed.

There had been two nominations for the post of Ordinary Council Member; Dr Peter Maskell and Mr William Morris.

This had gone to ballot and the votes had now been tallied.

Mr Morris was duly elected. Mr Morris had given his formal apologies.

### 5 **Motions for Consideration**

There were three motions for consideration. These had been published on the website and circulated to the members prior to the meeting.

### 5.1) Nomination of Mr Callum Sutherland for Honorary Fellow.

Mr Sutherland was a former Council member and had served for many years with the Metropolitan Police Service. He was well known in field, lectured widely and was also known for his many years of service to the Society.

Proposed by Mrs M Lee-Gorman and seconded by Professor A Gallop.

### 5.2) Introduction of electronic email voting for Council nomination ballots

Currently the Society elections were carried out by postal vote. The return on ballot papers sent out was low. A move to electronic format voting would be more cost effective going forward and would hopefully promote and encourage engagement. The vote would be conducted using a secure formal platform built for this purpose.

Proposed by Dr A Priston and seconded by Ms S Carney.

### 5.3) Introduction of published list of CSFS professional level members (Fellow, Member, Associate)

For this to have any value ALL professional level members would be required to be listed.

*Additional options for discussion:*

- *List to be available publically*
- *List to be by login access only*

AH gave some background to the motion. The Society was regularly approached by individuals, organisations, and solicitors etc. to confirm or deny whether a particular person was a member. With the new GDPR rules this is more difficult without express permission. The proposal here today was that joining the Society would be taken as express agreement to appear on this list.

There were two options to consider, a member login access only list or an open access list. AH noted that a list that required member login had less value outside of the membership.

There was in depth discussion on these options.

The importance of members opting in to the list was discussed. AH proposed that as part of either application to join or renewal of membership members were agreeing to be on the list, the act of payment would be the act of opting in. To this end current members would only go on the list at their renewal date and new members at application. Nobody would go onto the list straight away. This process was similar to the GDPR statement on current emails.

There were questions from the floor.

A Cadogan asked if the list would include historical members. (AH) The aim would be for it to be a list of current members. If asked about previous members the Society would, when possible, contact them and ask for permission to share this information. Information would not be given out without permission.

A Priston asked if the list would include Honorary Fellows, which it would. AH added that the list would include name and post nominal.

R Case asked if access to the public would include years of continuous membership and organisation worked for. (AH) The problem with this is that the information the Society has on a member's organisation is not always up to date or available, at this stage this would not be included. Years of continuous membership would be possible to add. R Case wondered if there was value in a login only enhanced version with contact details. (AH) In the first instance we would not include contact information. This would be something to look at later on.

R Hammond asked about members whose renewal was not due for some time but who wished to join the list sooner. (AH) The Society could contact all eligible members initially and create some form of opting in to the list.

M Moulden asked if, in regards to potential disciplinary issues, would there be a statement that membership was not recognition of someone's competence. (AH/RR) Agreed a rider was needed to cover this point.

S Willis asked how professional status is in keeping with such a disclaimer. (AH) Would need to be clear and carefully worded. There was some further discussion on this.

R Simmons asked about updating the list. (AH) The list would be updated monthly. In regards to GDPR a rider would be needed to state how often updated. AH further explained that for the subscription renewals the process was that each member received a renewal reminder up to 3 times. The list would be updated in line with this process, so after the final renewal email/on payment.

MLG asked what the situation was if you wanted to be a member but did not want your name to be disclosed. (AH) The list only has real value if all professional level members are included. So by joining/renewing your membership of the Society you are agreeing to be on the list. If there is opt out it is very difficult to keep such a list correctly updated.

AH added that one of reasons for looking at introducing this list was because the Society was entering into a data sharing agreement with the Forensic Science Regulator's office (FSR). This agreement meant that going forward if the Society received a complaint/disciplinary issue we will inform the FSR know and if the FSR receive a complaint they will contact us and we can check membership status. There was further discussion on this.

B Rankin asked for clarification of the membership levels this would apply to. AH clarified that for purposes membership levels of the Society Honorary Fellows are still Fellows and ChFP, as a qualification available to Members (professional), are still Members. Post nominals would be listed and this would include ChFP.

M Jones thought this was a good idea. He has been challenged in court previously in regards to his membership of the Institute of Fire Engineers, and such a list would help in this situation.

AH added that with Educational Accreditation of a course, there is a line that states if a person wishes to check the validity of a course for CSFS Educational Accreditation they can view this on the Society website. This would follow the same model.

Andrew Reid asked by those who paid by direct debit. (AH) At the point that a subscription was due, at an early stage in the month, the member would receive an email that subscription was due and would be taken by dd. Included in this would be note that by paying the direct debit you would be agreeing to be on the list.

(AH/RR) The proposal before the AGM was to create a public facing list in the main body of the website to include the names and postnominals of ALL professional level members (Associate, Member, and Fellow). At the point of renewal or joining you would be told that by paying you were confirming your agreement to be included on the list.

M Jones asked if it was possible to add the member number as well, in case of those with the same name. (AH) Yes this could be included.

A vote was taken by show of hands, 2 abstained, 33 in favour.  
The motion was carried.

## 6 **Any Other Business**

There were no other items of business from the floor.

The meeting closed at 12.50pm.