

SoRSA - Chairs Report 2022

I would like to again welcome those present here this evening and those that are joining us virtually via Zoom for this AGM.

This is the first time since June 2019 that we have returned to a 'Face to Face' event. That was when Stewart Knowles was installed as Chair of SoRSA, and I became Vice Chair. A lot has happened since then, with the pandemic taking centre stage and cancelling many events.

I became Chair last year in June 2021, at an event which took place virtually. It was strange to accept the role, whilst sat at home looking at the monitor. During my acceptance speech, I promoted my vision to strengthen SoRSA both nationally and internationally. The first 12 months has been difficult, owing to the ongoing restrictions that were still in place in 2021. However, I can confirm that SoRSA have been supporting & assisting CIHT with their Strategic Plan 2022 – 2027 and their Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Strategy. Hopefully, some more of my vision will be achieved in the next 12 months.

The SoRSA Committee have continued to meet up regularly over the past year, with a combination of virtual meetings and one hybrid. Most of the output from these meetings was the planning of this year's Workshop & Conference and I want to pass on my thanks and gratitude to all those who have been involved from the committee and for the additional support from Ciara and the rest of the team at CIHT.

We have managed to present several webinars to assist members with their CPD over the past 12 months. These included Design & Road Safety Audit Relationship (Dec 21) and Dementia & Road User (Jan 22). Further to this CIHT launched their LEARN digital learning platform in 2022 and I would encourage all members to access this, as there is some useful on-line learning available, some of which is free. SoRSA are hoping to continue with the webinars over the next 12 months. We are also looking at more 'Face to Face' events and have already offered our services to all the CIHT Branches. Just as a reminder for all members, the Webinars that have taken place in 2021 and those to date in 2022 are still available to access via the CIHT website. So, there is no excuse in not being able to maintain your CPD requirements.

As previously included in one of my 'Message from the Chair' Newsletters, we have updated the CIHT Road Safety Audit Guidelines and have now included report templates. It was strange to see that these have been utilised when reviewing Audit Reports on behalf of National Highways. Please check the CIHT guidelines, which are readily accessible from the SoRSA Homepage, as they do contain useful information.

Now to discuss the dreaded 'Annual Reviews'. These have caused some consternation among members this year. Your comments have been noted and will be reviewed by the Membership Working Group to see how they can be addressed, and the process simplified. What was disappointing is that this frustration was aimed at the Membership Secretary. We all have different opinions and that is why, when we undertake RSAs, we work as a team, where both may have different views of the issues identified. SoRSA has never intended to criticise our members and I would hope that any comments you receive are received as part of ongoing learning to improve the quality of reports and complying with the appropriate standards they have been prepared to.

Finally, as some of you here are already aware, it is my intention to retire from National Highways later this year. This will give me more time for SoRSA during the next 12 months and all the subsequent meetings and boards within CIHT.

Many thanks again and I look forward to meeting you all during the remainder of this conference and at future events that we will be organising.