

RIAS RESPONSE TO OPEN LETTER FROM 'A NEW CHAPTER' TO STEWART HENDERSON PRIAS
10 November 2017

As a member-led organisation, member interest and involvement in the issues facing the profession can only strengthen the Incorporation.

We are already progressing a full review of both the governance and the future direction of the Incorporation. The Incorporation appreciates that the Trustees, who make up Council, must look forward to embrace a governance and operating system that brings the openness that is right for a member led organisation. The RIAS staff are here to respond to and support members' priorities.

The Incorporation is committed to seeking wider involvement from members in responding to and shaping corporate strategy. The recent chapter-led consultations will help to shape the next 5 year plan. Chapter involvement is central to feedback of information to Council.

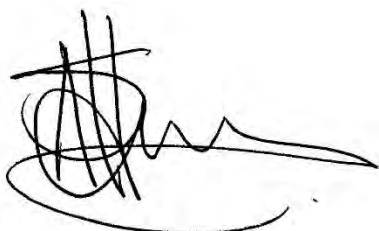
Considerable on-going work has already focussed on responding to those areas highlighted in the open letters. The Incorporation is clear that more could be done and with further support more can happen to inform and influence these future agendas.

There has been no attempt to cover up investigations, however there are legal reasons why information has not yet been shared in full. The Governance Group appointed by Council have instructed investigations of a number of issues. These have included probity reviews, salary benchmarking and a review of governance policies. Where legally possible trustees can share details, to which they have been party. The Incorporation is happy that they share details with members. The review has identified a lack of structured governance and this needs to be addressed with improved management organisation and accountability measures put in place.

The RIAS must look forwards to determine the aims and future of the organisation. The Incorporation recognises that diversity is one of those aims. Election of the president is as currently set out in our Charter.

Once legal impediments are behind us, there will be an opportunity to harness the creative energy symbolic of our membership and respond appropriately.

Stewart Henderson PRIAS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stewart Henderson', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.