

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S FOREWORD

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Michael Izza FCA
Chief Executive



In my foreword for last year's Annual Report, I concluded by highlighting the profound global shock that Russia's invasion of Ukraine was causing, with the full consequences still to be realised. 2022 turned out to be, in large part, defined by this event, with the impacts being felt far and wide.

ICAEW members were once again on the frontline of helping businesses navigate difficult circumstances and helping economies to stabilise, and we supported them to do that.

We equipped members to understand and react to a rapidly changing situation, in particular regarding the sanctions against Russia and the wider economic crime environment. I am proud of our work with UK policymakers, contributing to economic crime legislation, and emphasising the role of ICAEW Chartered Accountants in making such policy work.

In what was the first full year of face-to-face interaction since the COVID-19 pandemic, we invested in boosting and rebuilding our human and social capital. We understand the critical importance for so many of coming together in shared physical spaces, while also appreciating the significant benefits brought about by digital and hybrid working models. It has been a pleasure for me personally, to meet with so many of our own members and stakeholders during 2022.

To better support members with their lifelong learning and help them to better engage with our content, we removed the paywalls for some of our faculties and all of our communities. We also considered changes to our regulations around Continuing Professional Development, to better

tailor requirements to members' roles and help build trust in the profession, which will come into effect later in 2023.

We also continued to show leadership on the sustainability agenda and the road to net zero. Our place on the UK Government's Transition Plan Taskforce illustrates the pivotal role ICAEW and our members have in helping businesses adapt and making transition plans a reality.

In this report we have again featured photographs of some of the individuals who have helped our profession make a difference, emphasising that we are a diverse global community who find strength through our collaboration. In particular, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all our volunteers who so generously give their time and expertise to support our activities, and who are so instrumental in our success.

By almost all measures, it was another hugely successful year for ICAEW. We once again set a new record ACA student intake, of 11,962, marking a more than 8% increase on our previous global high in 2021 and further expanding our pipeline of future talent.

ICAEW membership also continued to grow, which at the end of 2022 stood at 166,397 globally.

Our year-on-year operational income increased to £124.8m, with a strong net result after tax of £13.6m.

The recent significant growth in our net assets continued in 2022, which now stand at £178m. Our financial position has in part been strengthened by money from Financial Reporting Council fines in recent years. The arrangements

require professional bodies to pay for the regulator's investigations in advance, following which those bodies receive any fine money.

These strong financial foundations continue to underpin our commitment to serve the public interest, not least within the volatile environment of recent years.

Our discussions around closer working with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) have continued. By joining forces, we believe we can achieve greater reach - both nationally and internationally - and be better equipped to serve the public interest across all areas of economic activity, including the enterprise, public and third sectors.

It is by working together - with our members, students, staff and stakeholders - that we can make the greatest progress, delivering against our strategy and helping to address some of society's biggest challenges.

Finally, it has recently been announced that I will be retiring from the role of Chief Executive of ICAEW in 2023. I wanted to take the opportunity to say that it has been an honour to represent our profession across the world since I became Chief Executive in 2006. I am grateful to colleagues for their support to me over the years and their ongoing commitment to ICAEW. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together, and I have no doubt that the Institute will continue to flourish after I leave.

Michael Izza FCA, Chief Executive