

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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**Mark Rhys FCA**  
President



When I became ICAEW President in June, I committed to helping to build a better and stronger profession in the public interest.

This starts with our own institute, and 2023 has been a historic year for ICAEW.

At the heart of this has been the start of fundamental reforms to modernise and strengthen our governance. In October, we appointed an independent Chair of the Board for a renewable three-year term; previously the President would undertake this duty, but I was pleased to relinquish the role to Peter Wyman, to improve the clarity of our structures and accountabilities. Further governance reforms are ongoing and I look forward to continuing progress in 2024.

Michael Izza also announced his retirement as CEO after 18 years of service; we are all immensely grateful for his unstinting and energetic leadership, which has seen ICAEW transformed into a world-leading professional body with truly global reach. I'm greatly looking forward

to working with Michael's successor, Alan Vallance, to ensure that this progress continues.

Michael leaves us in a position of great strength, with continuing growth in our member and student numbers, a healthy balance sheet and partnerships with a diverse range of professional bodies and other stakeholders across the world.

Serving as President has allowed me the privilege of seeing up close and personal, the work involved in building and sustaining this success. I've met with our members across the UK, and all over the world including Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Cyprus, Dubai, Australia and New Zealand. I've learnt about their work, how being a member of ICAEW helps them personally and professionally, and how we can further improve the support we provide them.

I've also felt the enthusiasm and optimism of our students; the next generation of ICAEW Chartered Accountants who will navigate a future very different to the world

in which the leaders of today began their careers.

Throughout these engagements, I've promoted the themes within our strategy and sought to emphasise just how active and influential our members are across the whole economy, as well as the long-term impact of the leadership they provide.

It's important to note that much of our success depends upon the generosity and goodwill of our global network of volunteers, whose contributions help shape and uphold our operations and our integrity. We are all extremely grateful for everything they do for ICAEW.

Thank you to all colleagues who have supported me in my duties as President, and whose hard work and commitment continue to make ICAEW and our profession so instrumental in the global economy.

**Mark Rhys FCA**  
President

