



Viresh Paul FCA

Business Appointment: Principal, Paul & Co (Accountants) Ltd

Personal introduction

I qualified as a Chartered Accountant 40 years ago with a four-partner City firm. I then joined the tax department of Price Waterhouse (as it was then known) before setting up my own practice. Ours is fully digitised practice that embraced remote working many years ago thus enabling me to remain in touch whilst travelling abroad on holidays and even doing charitable work organising eye camps in third world countries and supporting childhood cancer charities as well as providing leadership training to aspiring leaders in the community. I am deeply involved in a range of charitable activities as a member of Lions Clubs International (a service club organisation, larger than Rotary with c1.5m members worldwide) of which organisation I am a past Chairperson for British Isles and Ireland. I also serve as a Governor of a further education college and in my spare time, as I have mentioned above, I continue to run a small practice which I have been managing on my own with a team of four or thereabouts for more years than I care to remember.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/vireshpaul/>

Your involvement with ICAEW

My involvement with the ICAEW includes having served on the Small Practitioners Committee and the Enterprise Committee. I was the Treasurer of the North West London Society of Chartered Accountants for four years and then served for three years as its Chairman before being elected Vice President of the London Society of Chartered Accountants (LSCA). I'm currently the Deputy President. During this period, I have attended and contributed in meetings of the LSCA main committee and have chaired (now for the second year) the LSCA Area Societies Development and Communication committee (ASDAC). I am proud to have instigated and motivated the development of the programme labelled the "2021 Series" which will offer monthly, lunch-time, free to all, online CPD that local area societies were struggling to provide. I am hopeful that this initiative of mine will help engage more London members of ICAEW.

Motivation and ability to be a member of Council:

Membership of any group or body requires a commitment in terms of time and a desire to serve the organisation and the members it represents. I believe I have both. I will offer a balanced, robust and focussed voice developed over years of representation (and chairmanship) on community organisations ranging from further education to community service. I would now like to offer my profession a bit, if not more, of what I have been

contributing to other organisations during my professional career. I have always enjoyed being at the centre of influence and in positions which allow me to shape the opinions and perspectives of others in a positive way. I believe I am one of those that thrives from the larger perspective that comes from exposing oneself to experiences outside of one's field or comfort zone and always up for a challenge. I look forward to helping to influence and develop the profession, to being an effective ambassador for ICAEW, to representing the views of all London-based ICAEW members, and to participating actively in discussions about strategy, operational plans & budgets.

Strategic focus

As a representative of a diverse community, made up of smaller practices that look after the smaller businesses, I hope I will be able to make a balanced contribution that a caring, inclusive professional body needs in meeting the objectives set out in its Charter. Members of my constituency take pride in their ethical and professional standards but face increasing cut-throat competition from the non-qualified and even non-regulated practitioners. Whilst protectionism may not be the answer, I hope I can contribute in my own way to help Council strategise a pathway to better recognition of the brand at the High Street level from which acorns grow. Having worked in one of the biggest firms as well as a medium sized practice combined with my knowledge of building my own practice from scratch, I have the experience and knowledge of the wider issues facing our profession and believe I can make a humble contribution to the ICAEW's strategic development. Above all, I believe we need to promote the brand ICAEW more effectively and collectively with the help of the big firms as well as the small practices like mine to whom businesses turned for help just as they sought out the NHS for their medical needs from the commencement of the first lockdown.

Communication with members in your constituency

Having served for over seven years on the NWLCA committee – as Treasurer and Chairman – I am aware of the issues facing the members of my constituency. I have the opportunity of interacting with them on a monthly basis through our local CPD programme – which should once again be on a face to face basis once this epidemic is under control. The regular meetings have provided me the opportunity of interacting with local ICAEW members whose voice I hope to be on Council along with that of other London based members. I will take every opportunity available to me to communicate directly with as many members as possible with a view to making everyone understand that the ICAEW acts in the best interest of its members and the profession.

Nominators

Krutnadeek Buddhdev

Howard Gross

Anzo Francis

Harish Shah

Victoria Andrew

Declaration of interests which are relevant to the business of ICAEW

Membership of, or interests in, formal bodies or groups, including other professional bodies ⁱ :	None
Membership of ICAEW Council, ICAEW Boards and other ICAEW committees:	None at present. In the past I have served on the Small Practitioners Committee and the Enterprise Committee
Partnerships, Directorships or beneficial interests in companies:	Director of Paul & Co (Accountants) Ltd t/a Paul & Co, Chartered Accountants
Professional or social relationships with individuals who have business relationships or who compete with the ICAEW:	None
Any other matters you feel should be identified:	None

ⁱ This includes employment by a professional body.