

CIOL

Chair of Council Report

2017-2023



We are the Chartered Institute of Linguists, the only Royal Charter body for language professionals, linguists and language lovers in the world.

- together with the Association of Translation Companies (ATC), agreed a statement of equivalencies which recognises 17100 requirements.

Developing and Supporting Linguists

We have invested in our relationships with government, public services, universities and industry to expand opportunities for aspiring and practising linguists. We are proud that over 25% of our growing candidate and member community is international. We have done this by:

- evolving our Divisions and Societies in the UK, Europe and internationally;
- engaging our volunteer members who have developed more than 40 CPD opportunities during the past 12 months with 8,000+ linguists registering to attend; the majority of CPD is provided free of charge and is available through a dedicated CIOL members library;
- driving knowledge-learning and knowledge-transfer with the CIOL Experts Week (sponsored by Trados in spring 2022);
- developing our extensive 24/7 digital archive of resources, workshops, insight surveys, our self-service mentoring platform, as well as our global Find-A-Linguist search engine;
- introducing reports based on feedback, research and insight from our members, which gives the profession, new starters and stakeholders a wider understanding of the challenges

faced by linguists as well as the opportunities within; and

- working with other professional Language Stakeholders as well as with Charity Translators to support those affected and displaced by the

We have also transformed Members Day into the annual CIOL Conference giving more linguists from a wider range of backgrounds the opportunity to attend. A highlight of 2022 was undoubtedly our two-day in-person conference Bringing Language Professionals Back Together with our annual CIOL Awards, the latter celebrating outstanding contributions to the language profession with guest of honour our Royal Patron, HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO.

Representing Linguists

Each and every linguist is an ambassador for languages and to amplify this, we launched our online member-led series in 2022. Over the years we have developed an extensive network of almost 40 and

together, we champion values and standards, drive student engagement, language learning and research. We engage regularly with the British Academy, the University Council of Modern Languages (UCML), the Association of University Language Communities (AULC) as well as with GCHQ on the development of language capacity and capability in UK Government and the Civil Service.

We also actively share our concerns. Notably about the future pipeline and fairly-paid public service interpreters. As a member of the PI4J coalition we are working closely with NRPSI and other Public Service Interpreting (PSI)

stakeholders and with the Ministry of Justice and Police.

Over and above this we also:

- achieved a notable milestone in 2022 by taking on the lead role as Secretariat to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Modern Languages (APPG) in a partnership arrangement with the British Council, British Academy and UCML which puts us at the heart of parliamentary knowledge sharing, consultation and advocacy for languages and linguists;
- contributed to the 2022 public consultation for UK Languages, Cultures and Societies undergraduate degrees; and
- continued to co-host vibrant, the Language Show led by CIOL Honorary Fellow and Vice President Bernardette Holmes MBE.

Leadership and Management

During the past 18 months we made

transparent and accessible succession planning thereby transforming the pipeline and diversity of volunteers joining our committees.

Needless to say, CIOL Council has fully complied with all legislation relating to sound governance and business practices as well as taking care of our salaried human resources; this included my overseeing the seamless transition between the previous Chief Executive, Ann Carlisle, to John Worne in 2020. Without the unwavering commitment of John and his staff team, we simply would not have come through the pandemic or be where we are today, and market challenges to overcome.

Highlights and milestones

After joining Council in 2017 I was later appointed Chair in 2018. At that time, I said that we were at a crossroads in our history and that my vision would be to create a strong legacy for the next generation. I believed we ought to prioritise four things which were:

- (1) strengthen our unique Chartered Linguist brand,
- (2) review opportunities for more (inter)national cooperation,
- (3) develop more thought leadership relating to language development, and
- (4) ensure that our governance withstand scrutiny.

I am delighted to say that all of these overall business strategies.

Additional milestones have been the launch of the CertTrans last year which attracted candidates from 20 different countries, as well as coming through the pandemic – one of the toughest periods in CIOL's history.

It has also been a huge change that was rapidly embraced and skilfully implemented by the exceptionally dedicated and hard-working staff team.

The credibility and international pulling-power of the CIOL brand has gained in strength. In essence, we now deliver more opportunities for linguists to grow than ever before. At the end of the day though, the ultimate prize worth aiming for is to ensure our members appropriate pay and that the language profession overall gets the recognition that it deserves.

Outlook

While there are still clouds on the horizon, we are optimistic about what we can achieve in 2023 and beyond.

We have opened up greater dialogue and engagement than ever before between CIOL and UK Government and our language partners and stakeholders, determined to improve standards, pay and conditions for language professionals and to encourage greater recognition of high-quality at the heart of standards and expectations for UK public services.

We are excited to have new plans to leverage our unique strength as a Royal Charter body and work is underway to further strengthen and raise the Chartership brand. Work is also underway

to make CIOL more accessible to the international community and more attractive for linguists in commercial roles. To already made our CIOL Code of Professional Conduct more inclusive and we are working on pathways to membership for early-career

I am very proud to be able to look back over the past six years. It has been a momentous experience and one which I am incredibly grateful for. I want to thank everyone who has been part of my own journey within CIOL. You are too many to name individually. Nevertheless, without repeating my very sincere thanks to John Worne and his team, thanking the current Chair of the Trust Board (ETB), Prof. Jocelyn Wyburd, thanking Richard Hardie HonFCIL, President of CIOL who has been a guiding light throughout, and in particular thanking all the members of Council, committees and volunteers I have had the pleasure of working with so far. We couldn't have achieved so much without each other.

I wish the very best of luck to my successor, Steve Doswell, and look forward to remaining an active member both of CIOL and of the Global Community of Linguists we are proud to support.

Judith Gabler

Judith Gabler FCIL CL
Member and Chair of Council
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