

Annual Review 2021–22: Dame Janet Paraskeva, Chair of Standards and Regulation Board statement

The Standards and Regulation Board is the regulator within RICS. It is responsible for every stage of the professional life of RICS members – from setting and assessing the standards of those entering the profession, through continuing professional development throughout their career, as well as handling investigations and overseeing an independent tribunal where there are potential misdemeanours in a surveyor's practice. It is responsible for all professional standards of the institution.

The Board sets the rules and monitors the performance of surveyors in order to maintain appropriate protection for consumers and clients, ensuring fair enforcement in the public interest.

During this past year, there have been a number of important developments in the Board's work. They have included the publication of Peter Pereira Gray's independent review of real estate investment valuations – and the Board has started work on implementing his recommendations – the development of technical guidance for the valuation of buildings with cladding and on the correct use of EWS1 forms for leaseholders, owners, lenders and purchasers, and – following extensive global consultation –the RICS Rules of Conduct were updated and guidance on the use of social media published.

The Board established the Entry and Assessment Steering Group to undertake a widespread review of entry into the profession and to ensure that there are appropriate arrangements in place to secure the next generation of professionals, and continued to work closely with the Qualifications and Assessments Committee to ensure a robust response to the challenges caused to candidates and firms by the failure of the technology platform Assessment Resource Centre.

And like all other parts of the organisation, the Board is working hard to implement the recommendations of the Bichard RICS Review as adopted by Governing Council, which placed great emphasis on ensuring that public interest was at the heart of RICS' work, and established a future structure for RICS to enable it to deliver robust and independent regulation through the SRB.

I believe that the SRB will play a central role in delivering the RICS envisaged by that review, working with clarity, accountability and transparency in all that it does.