



Update from the Chair – 9 October 2026

I'm Jonathan, the new chair. Traditionally, chairs write statements. I prefer to talk things through in a more informal way so I thought a walk and talk would be better. Let's go outside.

First off, thank you for all the congratulations messages. It feels like a good chunk of the ITI membership has either dropped me a message on LinkedIn, emailed the office, or send me a message some other way. If I haven't replied personally, please take this as your personal 'thank you'. ITI *is* its members and the support you have already offered is exactly what we need right now, and always, really.

Lots of people are now scratching their heads over the fact that we have had three chairs in a short space of time. I even had someone asking if something fishy is going on.

I can see why you might ask. Both resignations came as a shock to the board, as much as they came as a shock to you. Let me explain what happened.

In September, Fiona Gray stepped down to pursue a new career. The board wished her well and set about appointing a new chair. Lloyd Bingham stepped up from Vice Chair to Chair.

As Lloyd mentioned in his LinkedIn message, ITI faces many internal and external challenges. He decided that he was not the right person to lead ITI through them and he stepped down on the 28th September.

And now, I'm chair. And there are no fish.

What about the challenges? There are many of them but they are known. Let's start with the obvious ones.

First, finances. For as long as I have known ITI, our finances have been finely balanced. This year, that balance tipped. We have had a marked drop in membership and, as we mentioned in the town hall meetings the conference did not achieve the financial results we were hoping for.

We have already implemented cost-cutting strategies and, as I said in my first message as chair, we are launching two new task forces, one on financial modelling and one on additional income streams. The financial modelling task force will have completed its work by the end of the year. These are the first task forces but not the last.

ITI will have to change. But we will make sure that those changes ensure that the institute remains strong and keeps its members at the forefront. ITI *is* its members.

The second challenge is making sure that we continue to earn the trust of our members. In his messages, Lloyd mentioned the importance of transparency.



I wholeheartedly agree with him. Those who know me will tell you I am known for three things: talking too much about interpreting, groanworthy puns, and saying things that needs said.

I will share with members as much as possible, through regular chair updates. You will be seeing and hearing a lot from me over the next three years. The plans we are all waiting for will come soon but I do say now that they will be as much about hard work as they will be about shiny results. I am confident that there is a way for ITI to not just survive but thrive. But to get there, we will need as much help from our members as we can get. ITI *is* its members.

Third challenge is to understand what we can learn from the conference. There will be a full review. As part of this, we will carefully examine all the feedback we have received. I will let you know when that starts. And the results of the review will be sent to all members.

There have been questions about the role of the Chief Executive. In ITI, as in any company with a board, the board sets the strategy and has full responsibility for overall financial management. The Chief Executive and the staff team run the operations. I am working closely with the Chief Executive and Anna Kerod, our vice chair. The board sees the full accounts and receives regular operational updates. I am fully confident in the working relationship between the Chief Executive, Chair and Vice Chair.

One final thing, I mentioned earlier that the support our members have offered is exactly what we need. I meant it. ITI *is* its members. And so I have a favour to ask of you.

If you worry about where ITI is going, if you feel that ITI has somehow become more distant, if you would like to see ITI do this or that, please do two things:

- 1) Send us feedback. Constructive feedback is always good. It's even better if it comes in the form of a well-written plan.
- 2) Be ready for us to ask you to help put that into practice. Your networks and regional groups need you. Your colleagues need you. ITI needs you. If anything, ITI is going to need to be even more member-focussed and member-driven than before. Anyone can write an email or a LinkedIn post, it makes an even greater impact when people come join the work of building the ITI we all want.

Many of our board members are going to be visiting regional groups over the next few weeks. I will be joining them for some too. There is also the upcoming AGM coming soon and the ITI birthday celebrations. I look forward to meeting more members in person and online.

And, if you want to drop me a message, my email address is chair@iti.org.uk.

Until then, thank you.

Dr Jonathan Downie AITI, Chair