# The Joint Mathematical Council of the United Kingdom

# Trustees' Annual Report for the period from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020

## Who is the JMC?

1. **Governance** The Joint Mathematical Council of the United Kingdom (also known as 'The JMC') is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, Registered Charity Number: 1171223. The JMC's governing document is its Constitution.

2. **Address** The JMC's principal office is in England at De Morgan House, 57-58 Russell Square, London, WC1B 4HS but all correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary (currently: Mr Chris Chipperton, Secretary, The Joint Mathematical Council of the United Kingdom, 5 Railton Meadow, Woodmansey, Beverley, East Yorkshire, HU17 0UU). The JMC's website can be found at www.jmc.org.uk.

3. **Membership** The membership of the JMC consists of its Officers, Participating Bodies, Co-opted Members and Observing Bodies; during the period from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020 these were:

### Officers

| | |
|---|---|
| Chair | Andy Noyes |
| Deputy Chair | Alice Rogers |
| Secretary | Chris Chipperton |
| Treasurer | Jennie Golding |

### Participating Bodies

| *Body* | *Authorised Representative* |
|---|---|
| Adults Learning Mathematics | Jeff Evans |
| Association of Mathematics Education Teachers | Helen Farmery |
| Association of Teachers of Mathematics | Heather Davis |
| British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics | Sue Gifford (until November 2019) |
| | Jeremy Hodgen (from November 2019) |
| British Society for the History of Mathematics | June Barrow-Green (until November 2019) |
| Edinburgh Mathematical Society | David Pritchard (until November 2019) |
| Heads of Departments of Mathematical Sciences | Jan van den Heuvel |
| Institute of Mathematics and its Applications | Chris Chipperton (until November 2019) |
| | Paul Glaister (from November 2019) |
| London Mathematical Society | Kevin Houston |
| The Mathematical Association | Tom Roper (until November 2019) |
| | Peter Ransom (from November 2019) |
| Mathematics in Education and Industry | Charlie Stripp |
| National Association for Numeracy and Mathematics in Colleges | Sally Barton (until November 2019) |
| | Graham Griffiths (from November 2019) |
| National Association of Mathematics Advisers | Matt Lewis |
| National Numeracy | Mike Ellicock |
| NRICH representing the Millennium Mathematics Project | Ems Lord |
| Operational Research Society | Evelyn Hardy |
| Royal Academy of Engineering | |
| Royal Statistical Society | Carol Haynes |
| Scottish Mathematical Council | Chris Pritchard (until November 2019) |
| | Carol Haynes (from November 2019) |
| STEM Learning | Stephen Lyon |
| United Kingdom Mathematics Trust | Hannah Telfer |
| Wales Institute of Mathematical and Computational Sciences | Sofya Lyakhova |

### Co-opted Members

| | |
|---|---|
| UK Representative to the International Commission on Mathematics Instruction | Chris Budd |

**Observing Bodies**

| *Body* | *Authorised Representative* |
|---|---|
| Department for Education [England] | Alex Smith |
| Department of Education [Northern Ireland] | Julie Harris |
| Education Scotland | Andy Brown |
| National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics | Jane Imrie (until November 2019) |
| | Sue Madgwick (from November 2019) |
| Office for Standards in Education | Emma Gregory |
| The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation | Sarah Old |
| The Royal Society | Helen Harth |
| The Royal Society Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education | Lynne McClure (from November 2019) |
| Scottish Qualifications Authority | Sue Pope |
| Welsh Government Education Directorate | John Mason |

4. **Trustees** The trustees are the officers, Elected Trustees and Co-opted Trustees. The Elected Trustees and the Co-opted Trustees must be Authorised Representatives of Participating Bodies at the time of their appointment.

   Trustees for the period from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020:

   | | |
   |---|---|
   | Sally Barton | Elected Trustee (retired November 2019) |
   | Chris Chipperton | Secretary (retires November 2022; eligible for re-election) |
   | Heather Davis | Elected Trustee (retires November 2021; eligible for re-election) |
   | Jennie Golding | Treasurer (retires November 2023; not eligible for re-election) |
   | Graham Griffiths | Elected Trustee (retires November 2022; eligible for re-election) |
   | Kevin Houston | Co-opted Trustee (from November 2019) |
   | Sofya Lyakhova | Co-opted Trustee (from November 2019) |
   | Andy Noyes | Chair (retires November 2021; eligible for re-election) |
   | David Pritchard | Co-opted Trustee (retired November 2019) |
   | Alice Rogers | Deputy Chair (retires November 2020) |

   The JMC has no corporate trustees. No trustee holds title to property belonging to the JMC. The JMC does not act as a Custodian Trustee for any other charity.

# What does the JMC do?

5. **Objects** The JMC's Constitution states that 'The objects of the Council are, for the public benefit, to advance the knowledge, understanding, study and education of the public in the subject of mathematics, including by:

   - sharing knowledge, best practice and teaching methods amongst individuals and organisations teaching mathematics; and
   - liaising with mathematical bodies, national education policy makers and government in furthering the objects.'

6. **Incorporation** The JMC was incorporated on 20 January 2017 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It is the successor to the unincorporated Joint Mathematical Council of the United Kingdom which was founded in 1962 and first met in 1963. The old body was dissolved on 17 August 2017 and the minutes of its final meetings, its final report and its final accounts were approved at the meeting of the new body on 14 November 2017.

7. **Meetings** For the furtherance of its objects, the JMC holds General Meetings three times a year to promote communication between mathematical bodies in the United Kingdom. General Meetings were held on 12 November 2019 (which was also the Annual General Meeting), 18 February 2020 and 2 June 2020. Meetings of the Trustees preceded these meetings. The General Meetings received reports from Participating Bodies and Observing Bodies as well as from JMC representatives on external bodies, and discussed issues of concern raised. The afternoon sessions were given over to the discussion of topics: The Professional Development Landscape across the UK (12 November); Developments in 14-18 mathematics qualifications(18 February). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the June meeting was held online and no discussion topic was included. The minutes of meetings are published on the JMC website, www.jmc.org.uk.

8. **Commissioned Reports** The JMC commissioned two reports. *Mathematics Education 5-18 in the Four Nations: A comparative analysis* (Sue Forsythe and Cathy Smith, Open University) was received in July 2020 and can be found at https://www.jmc.org.uk/documents/JMC_Report_4_Nations_final.pdf. The draft of *Additional mathematics papers for entry to English universities: Their role, purpose and impact* (Jennie Golding, UCL Institute of Education) was received in June following some delay caused to the research by the COVID-19 pandemic; the final report is expected in September 2020.

9. **British Congresses of Mathematics Education Committee** (Trustee Lead: Sally Barton (until November 2019)) It was hoped to start planning for BCME10 to be held in 2022 based on a reviewed model of a 3 day conference which would allow for different patterns of attendance. Repeated attempts to find leadership for the event led to agreement that BCME10 will not take place. The JMC recognises that there is a changing landscape for professional development and consideration needs to be given to a more radical shift in how such events might be organised.

10. **International Congresses of Mathematics Education Bursaries Committee** (Chair: Chris Budd) International Congresses of Mathematics Education are scheduled to be held every four years with ICME-14 planned for 2020 in Shanghai. The COVID-19 pandemic caused this to be postponed with the intention of it being held in July 2021 instead. Prior to the postponement, the ICME Bursaries Committee had received ten applications for bursaries. The £4,600 raised through grants from the London Mathematical Society and the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications were distributed to the applicants in varying amounts according to factors given in their applications. Efforts have been made to recover bursary funds wherever possible, but it is recognised that much of the funding was already committed in registration fees and air fares.

11. **Meeting of Mathematics Subject Associations Special Interest Group** (Honorary Secretary: John Barton) This group was established as a SIG of the JMC on 9th June 2017. MMSA consists of five associations, AMET, ATM, MA, NANAMIC and NAMA. NCETM and The Royal Society also attend meetings. Each subject association covers its own costs for the attendance of two representatives. In the academic year, 2019-20, two meetings were held:

    - October 2019: held at the De Morgan House, London. The meeting considered further the possible formation of a single subject association for mathematics. A sub-committee was formed

    - January 2020: The meeting was joined by Emma Gregory, National Mathematics Lead at Ofsted. A number of mathematics education issues were discussed and the meeting heard from Emma Gregory who also answered questions.

    The sub-committee met on a number of occasions and explored the different possibilities for the location of a headquarters should a merger take place. A proposal was formulated for the individual associations to consider.

12. **Relationships with other bodies** The JMC has the following relationships with other bodies.

    The JMC is a member of the Council for Subject Associations.

    The JMC is a member of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

    The JMC also has the following relationships with other bodies as part of which the JMC neither makes payment nor receives payment:

    The London Mathematical Society generously allows the JMC to use its address as the address of the JMC's principal office.

    The National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics invites the JMC to nominate a representative to the National Maths Hubs Forum.

    National Numeracy invites the JMC to nominate a representative to the National Numeracy Forum.

    OCR invites the JMC to nominate a representative to its Mathematics Consultative Forum.

    The Open University generously provided electronic document archives for the JMC until December 2019.

    The Royal Society includes the Chair of the JMC among the members of its Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education.

    The JMC is also represented at other meetings from time to time.

    The JMC has no employed staff or paid consultants.

13. **Public Benefit** The Trustees have had due regard to the public benefit guidance of the Charity Commission of England and Wales when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

# The JMC's finances and governance

14. **Context** Much of the subscription income was used to meet the cost of the three meetings each year. The JMC continues to look for ways to finance initiatives to further its objects. The funds relating to the British Congress of Mathematics Education are held in a restricted fund devoted to the holding of such conferences.

15. **Financial Position** The report on the JMC's financial position is included with the Annual Accounts which accompany this report.

16. **Reserves** The Trustees have adopted a policy on general reserves; the 'JMC will maintain reserves of approximately twice the annual ordinary turnover at the financial low-point of the year (typically after payment of November meeting costs, before new year's subscription invoices are paid). The majority of this reserve will be kept in a deposit account and/or other investment account approved by the trustees.'

    The Trustees have also adopted a policy on reserves relating to the BCME Restricted Fund; the 'JMC will aim to maintain reserves of 15–20% of BCME turnover, derived from BCME operating surpluses, as a restricted fund which will be (at least largely) kept in the above-mentioned or other deposit/investment account(s) over periods of low BCME-related activity. The manner of such investment will be approved by trustees, who will endeavour to steward such monies prudently.'

17. **Grant Making** Apart from the bursaries to BCME which have been held every 4 years and its involvement in organising bursaries for those attending the International Congresses of Mathematics Education which are also held every four years, the JMC does not make grants.

18. **Social Investment** The JMC does not make social investments.

19. **Bye Laws** The Trustees have reviewed the JMC's Bye Laws during the year.

20. **Policies** The Trustees have reviewed the JMC's policies during the year. With much of the money that might be invested being in the BCME Restricted Fund, a detailed policy on investments needs to be drawn up now the BCME review is complete.

    The Bye Laws and policies, as well the Constitution, can be found at http://www.jmc.org.uk/documents.htm.

    During the year the Trustees have reviewed the risk register.

# Declaration

21. **Approval** The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

    Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees


    Chris Chipperton

    Secretary

    25 October 2020