

Report from the CPD Panel Chair on CPD submissions received from members in 2021 relating to 2020

Introduction

We know that 2020 will have been a difficult year to plan CPD for many members whilst juggling the challenges brought by Covid-19, and that 2021 continues to provide its own challenges. I would therefore like to start by thanking those of you who submitted a record upon request this year, as well as those who have kept in touch and deferred their submission to 2022 due to the current situation. There are times for all of us when life can be particularly challenging and you need a little help, information or advice – [EI Enable](#) is free and always here to provide support to EI members.

It was pleasing to see that maintaining and developing knowledge and competence is recognised as a key part of our lives by members, especially when many of us are facing uncertain times. As members of the EI and as professionals, we all commit to working towards being the best we can be, not only for our own benefit, to improve and develop our prospects, but also for the benefit of the energy sector and wider society.

The EI offers a range of support to help members in their ongoing learning and development, including the encyclopaedic Energy Matrix, training courses, conferences, and newsletters.

As a professional or Associate member, you can also benefit from the EI's new mentoring scheme [EI Connect](#) – connecting you with Energy Professions to help guide you in achieving your professional goals – and [mycareerpath](#), where you can keep track of your CPD and/or your progress towards professional memberships and registrations.

About CPD

Each year we request CPD records from a cross section of our members, many of whom hold registrations awarded on behalf of our Licensing Bodies or registers. All those who hold professional registration such as a CEng, IEng, EngTech, Chartered Environmentalist, ESOS Lead Assessor and RPEC registrants, are required to record their CPD, and submit a record upon request in order to maintain their registration. The value placed on CPD by awarding bodies and employers continues to increase year on year, and CPD is crucially important in the context of meeting the challenges and opportunities of the energy transition.

Once records are received, we on the CPD Panel give feedback to as many members as we can, to help support them in developing their approach to CPD and learning. Our role isn't to tell you what to do – you're in the best position to know what development you need and where you want to go in your career – but to advise you on the best way to record your CPD. If there are specific requirements you need to undertake due to your registration, and your record is one of those we look at, we will also give you feedback on what you need to do to make sure you keep your hard-earned titles.

As we are not able to respond directly to everyone who makes a submission, we provide this report each year, giving general feedback to those who submitted and advice for those who might be asked to submit their records in the future.

Recording your CPD

The EI has produced a template CPD record, which we recommend that you use to record your CPD throughout each year. It comes with full guidance to help you work through the process and concentrate on what matters. This is particularly important if you hold registrations or approvals where there are particular requirements you need to meet, such as for ESOS Lead Assessors. It may be however, that you are already keeping a CPD record for your employer or for another professional body – we don't want to ask you to duplicate your work, but do check your record contains everything requested in the EI template. This way you can be sure you have all areas covered for any professional registrations you hold.

The EI has also produced four CPD guidance videos, which can be found on the [EI website](#). These guide you in how to complete your CPD record, the requirements that you need to meet and what you should include in your record. The main message is that CPD isn't complicated, chances are you are doing it every day (is there a day when you don't learn something, refine a process, take something new into account, consult with others or ask for, or give advice?!) Learning and updating your skills is every professional's responsibility and is part of what we do as professionals, rather than something extra.

Report on 2021 submissions for 2020 CPD

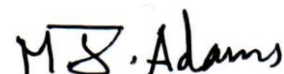
From reading the CPD records submitted this year, we often found that members' records focused on formal learning, such as courses and seminars and self-directed learning, such as reading and research. While this is perfectly good CPD, many members forget to take credit for their on-the-job learning. We are all learning constantly and anything where you learn something new or refine your practise counts as CPD. This could even be something as seemingly small as a conversation or debate with a colleague. We also tend to find that while most members are conducting plenty of CPD throughout the year, they often forget to reflect on what they learned from this, how they will put their learning into practice or the difference it made to their work. Reflection on what you have learned and how you will put this into practice, is an important factor in getting the most out of your CPD. It can be useful to write your record in the first person - 'I thought about... I was able to consider... I learned...' etc. Often where members have attended courses, they record the learning outcomes for the course, rather than what they learned and how it helped them develop.

On the whole, we have seen CPD records improving year-on-year and we have received some excellent records this year - the best of these were well organised and covered a range of topics and activities. They also gave an honest self-assessment of what the member got out of their learning and how they are using that learning to develop competence. We found records like these interesting and enjoyable to read, not least because they showed clear reflection and a sense of purpose.

Our thanks

On behalf of the CPD Panel, I would like to thank those members who submitted records in 2021, and for the many thoughtful and positive responses we received in this difficult time.

For more information about CPD, please visit the [EI Website](#).



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