

IEMA's Chartership Frequently Asked Questions



Contents

What is IEMA intending to do regarding a Royal Charter?	2
What is a Royal Charter and what does it do?.....	2
Why is IEMA choosing to apply for a Royal Charter?	3
What does applying for a Royal Charter involve?.....	3
Why do we need a member vote?.....	4
Where and when will the EGM and member vote be held?	4
What will happen at the EGM?.....	4
How can I vote?.....	5
Do I have to vote?	5
What will IEMA be called if it achieves a Royal Charter?.....	5
If IEMA does achieve a Royal Charter, what will this mean for the profession and for me?	6
If IEMA becomes a Chartered Body, will my membership be affected in any way?	6
Will I retain my Chartered Environmentalist status and will IEMA continue as a licensed body of the Society for the Environment?	6
Will it mean I automatically become a Chartered member because I'll be a member of a chartered body?	7
I have some more questions; who can I speak to?.....	7

What is IEMA intending to do regarding a Royal Charter?

IEMA is in the process of applying for a Royal Charter from the Privy Council. The preliminary stages are now complete, and we have been invited to submit a formal application.

The successful award of a Royal Charter will enhance the status of IEMA and raise the profile of the profession. As a chartered body, we would be formally recognised by the UK Government to develop and regulate our profession – in IEMA's case this would be defined as corporate sustainability, environmental management, and impact assessment.

What is a Royal Charter and what does it do?

A Royal Charter is an official document which recognises an organisation as a legal entity, granting certain rights and governance powers. Chartered bodies are usually learning establishments, representative bodies, societies and professional associations. Issue of a Royal Charter is also how the status of British cities is formalised.

A Royal Charter is granted by the sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II, on the advice of the Privy Council.

The warrant is issued as a physical document, usually handwritten in calligraphy on vellum and features the Royal Seal. It is accompanied by an associated piece of legislation which sets out, and enshrines in law, what the organisation named is responsible for. In the case of professional bodies, incorporation by Royal Charter is a matter of public interest. Any changes made to a charter and its by-laws must be reviewed and approved by the UK Government in power at the time the changes are proposed.

Why is IEMA choosing to apply for a Royal Charter?

This is in response to calls from members made during an important consultation who said they feel IEMA should become a Chartered body, thereby giving equivalent status to other established professions such as accountancy, engineering, surveying and marketing.

It also gives IEMA the official and formal right to develop, regulate and promote the profession – namely corporate sustainability, environmental management and impact assessment.

Becoming a Chartered Body will raise the profile of the profession, and add additional professional gravitas IEMA's individual members.

What does applying for a Royal Charter involve?

The process of applying for a Royal Charter includes both informal and formal stages.

Following meetings with the Privy Council office, the IEMA Board submitted an initial letter of intent and after review by Privy Council Advisors, we were invited to proceed to the next stage. This involved the development of a draft Charter, Bye-laws, Petition and Special Resolution, which were submitted to the Privy Council for informal review. We have now been invited by the Privy Council to submit a formal application and to petition for a Royal Charter.

The formal process includes a number of stages, including:

- a formal decision from IEMA members, through a Special Resolution at an Extraordinary General Meeting, to Petition for a Royal Charter;
- Privy Council publication of IEMA's charter application in the London Gazette, and assuming no objections;
- an Order in Council is prepared for approval by the Privy Council; and once the Order in Council is made, a Warrant is issued to pass the Royal Charter under the Great Seal.

Assuming that all goes well, we anticipate receiving confirmation of our Royal Charter by the end of 2018.

Why do we need a member vote?

On Tuesday 15th May IEMA will hold an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) in London where all members will be invited to vote on a Special Resolution to petition of a Royal Charter.

Member support is required to commence petitioning, as the legal entity of IEMA will be transferred to the new Chartered body, and the existing company will be made dormant, if our application is successful. Formalising our application is entirely dependent on members voting in favour of the move – we require 75% of members voting (either in attendance or through submission of postal or proxy votes) vote for us to apply for our Royal Charter we will progress the application immediately. If a majority vote is not reached, we cannot progress the plans any further, unless another vote is held in future and an “in favour” vote is attained.

Where and when will the EGM and member vote be held?

The EGM will be held at Vintners’ Hall, 68 Upper Thames Street, London, EC4V 3BG from 5:30pm on Tuesday 15th May 2018.

Booking your place at the EGM is not obligatory but is encouraged so we can meet needs for seating, refreshments etc. You can book your place [here](#).

What will happen at the EGM?

The vote will be held at 6pm at Vintners’ Hall once all members have arrived and are seated. The Chair of the IEMA Board, Diana Montgomery, will outline the proceedings and give instructions on how to vote and let you know how we will count and verify the votes cast.

Details of any proxy votes will be given, and then members in the room will be asked as a collective if they vote in favour of IEMA submitting a formal application for a Royal Charter. They will also be asked for any objections or abstentions.

The vote will be a simple show of hands and the number of votes cast will be collated with the postal and proxy votes to establish an outcome. This will take around fifteen to thirty minutes. 75% of those voting are required to pass the resolution.

The vote will be the only agenda item, so once the vote has concluded members will be welcome to stay on to enjoy the follow-on event and further refreshments.

How can I vote?

You have two options:

1. You can attend the EGM on the evening of 15th May at Vintners' Hall and vote via a show of hands.
2. You can appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf. This can be either the IEMA Company Secretary, or another IEMA member or appointed person you know and trust to attend the EGM and vote via a show of hands. You may specify your voting instructions to your appointed proxy (i.e. either for or against our application for a Royal Charter or whether you are abstaining).

Do I have to vote?

No, but it is strongly encouraged as this is an opportunity to help shape the future of IEMA and the profession. This is an opportunity to have a say in how our organisation will be positioned, governed and promoted in the future.

Your member vote is yours to use, and this particular occasion is your chance to influence what happens to your chosen professional body and your profession. Voting is your right as a member, and you have full choice over how you use it. All members, regardless of grade or location are entitled to vote.

Attending the EGM to cast your vote in person means you'll be there at a critical moment in IEMA's history. You'll get to visit the wonderful historic venue, enjoy some refreshments and networking with other members and IEMA staff, and stay on to hear some truly inspiring presentations from leaders and pioneers from our profession.

If you can't attend the vote, it takes just a few minutes to appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf. If you're not able to cast your vote in person, we encourage you to consider this route. You must ensure that your proxy notice arrives no later than Monday 14th May 2018 addressed to us at:

Governance Secretary

IEMA

City Office Park

Lincoln

LN6 7AS

What will IEMA be called if it achieves a Royal Charter?

We will become CIEMA – the Chartered Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment. Our logo and everything that carries our name will be updated from the point we are renamed.

The Privy Council advised against a change of name, other than the addition of the word “Chartered”.

If IEMA does achieve a Royal Charter, what will this mean for the profession and for me?

It will mean a new enhanced level of recognition for IEMA members and the profession. People from businesses and other professions across the globe will recognise that members of CIEMA do important, impactful and inspirational work, supported by an organisation that has been recognised by the highest level of authority for its high standards and influence.

It will change how employers and people from other industries view your professional credentials, as members of Chartered Bodies enjoy enhanced levels of career recognition and opportunity.

Essentially the Royal approval of IEMA’s professional standards and our ability to oversee the profession will benefit all individual and corporate members by association.

If IEMA becomes a Chartered Body, will my membership be affected in any way?

Not in any negative way. You’ll enjoy new levels of professional recognition and new opportunities to demonstrate that you are part of a body which has been recognised by the British Crown.

If you have an IEMA suffix after your name (GradIEMA, AIEMA, PIEMA, MIEMA or FIEMA) this will change very slightly simply to reflect IEMA’s chartered status – GradCIEMA, ACIEMA, PCIEMA, MCIEMA, FCIEMA.

Will I retain my Chartered Environmentalist status and will IEMA continue as a licensed body of the Society for the Environment?

Yes. We will remain an active licenced body member of the Society for the Environment (SocEnv) and any CEnv applications and awards will be processed exactly as they are right now. SocEnv is supportive of IEMA gaining chartered status. Emma Wilcox, Chief Executive of the Society for the Environment (SocEnv), said: “We fully support IEMA’s application for a Royal Charter. As one of the founding members of Society for the Environment, IEMA has made a significant contribution to registering Chartered Environmentalists and supporting professional development. We wish IEMA success in its journey to Chartered status and look forward to maintaining our collaboration in the years to come.”

Will it mean I automatically become a Chartered member because I'll be a member of a chartered body?

No. If you wish to achieve individual chartered status, you would need to apply for and successfully pass the assessment for CEnv just as you would have to now.

I have some more questions; who can I speak to?

We've outlined all the questions we think you're likely to be curious about here, but we realise that you'll be interested to know more. Feel free to get in touch with your questions or to voice any concerns. Our Head of PR & Communications Katrina Pierce is happy to help, so drop a line to +44 (0)1522 271720 or k.pierce@iema.net and Katrina will respond as soon as possible.