

ESSEX CLERKS' ASSOCIATION
IMPORTANT UPDATE – MARCH 2024

It is with sadness that we must advise that Tina Weavers, who has been Chair of the ECA for many years, has stepped down from the role with immediate effect. She has now retired from clerking and relocated away from Essex to be closer to her family. She will be greatly missed by the ECA and we thank her for all her work over the years to help clerks. Tina has been a driving force for both the work and development of the ECA during her time as Chair. Tina's departure has had an obvious knock-on effect on the ECA Executive Committee which has raised questions about the future of the ECA itself. Tina's professional knowledge was a very key part of what the ECA was able to offer clerks through the termly briefings.

The ECA Executive Committee has now discussed this situation and identified two major issues:

1. If the ECA is to continue, a new person will be needed to take on the role of Chair. The role we envisage for the Chair of the ECA is not the same as it was previously and does not necessarily include the requirement to undertake the ECA termly briefings, as this task does require professional knowledge as well as time. The Executive Committee is investigating alternative ways of distributing information to clerks which could involve the current style of briefings ceasing. Also, additional members will be required on the Executive Committee itself in the near future to help address the issue of succession planning.
2. If nobody can be found to take on the role of Chair, a decision may have to be made on the viability of the ECA itself. Dissolution of the ECA in accordance with the constitution is the worst-case scenario but is a very real possibility at the moment. Times have changed since the ECA was formed and clerking information has become far more readily available to clerks through various other online organisations.

These issues will be raised for discussion, and possible decisions, at the ECA AGM being held via Zoom on **TUESDAY 23 APRIL 2024 at 5.00pm** and we please request that as many ECA members as possible make the effort to attend this **very important** AGM. The discussions/decisions taken by those attending the AGM may well influence whether or not the ECA Conference planned for 13th June goes ahead.

There will NOT be the usual termly briefing following the AGM on 23rd April.

In order to help the Executive Committee understand whether the ECA can continue, and in what format, we would be very grateful if you could complete this short survey:

(ECA Survey Link) - *[use the link or copy the following into your browser]* – **<https://forms.gle/JMN7TSsmdPxHeY2j6>**

immediately on reading this email as this will give us additional information to help assess the future of the organisation.

Very many thanks

Peter Bates
Membership Secretary

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