

Dear Members

I am writing to you in my capacity as Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees, about a Motion the Board wishes to put to a vote by the Membership of the RPS.

Simon Hill HonFRPS has been an essential Trustee for almost six years and for approaching five of those years he has been an active, accessible, and very visible President and Chair of Trustees. He has played a key role in modernizing the RPS and positioning it for a sustainable future, while putting enormous personal effort into promoting the RPS to the widest possible audience. I do not believe there is anyone who would not agree that Simon has excelled as a figurehead for the RPS.

With the collective efforts of volunteers, staff, and Trustees, the RPS is now seeing month-on-month membership growth, reduced operating costs, and progress towards a cash neutral operating budget. We are at a critical time in delivering the modernisation agenda that will see the RPS become sustainable and 'fit for purpose' as an educational charity and membership organisation representing the art and science of photography.

In September, Simon will reach the six-year time limit for an RPS Trustee. As we continue our journey to modernise the RPS, the Board of Trustees fully recognizes the value of Simon's leadership and his detailed understanding of the RPS's governance principles and processes. Given the important work ahead, the Board would like to retain Simon's leadership and believes an additional two-year term as President and Chair of Trustees would be absolutely in the best interests of the RPS. This would ensure a continuation of the modernisation strategy, and it would greatly support the seamless implementation of a robust Presidential succession plan.

The Board has proposed a Motion to extend Simon's term for two more years. This will be voted on by Members at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on **Thursday 24 April 7:00 pm (GMT)**, to be held online. Before then, the Board will host a Town Hall meeting on **Wednesday 12 February 2025, 7:00 pm (GMT)**, also to be held online, to provide an opportunity to discuss the Motion.

The Board remains committed to the RPS's financial sustainability, with increased oversight to ensure decisions are both strategic and prudent. All major financial decisions and significant strategic issues require a majority Board approval, ensuring collective, transparent governance. Simon provides the leadership and expertise to ensure the Board addresses each of these decisions with care and in possession of the full facts. I hope you will be able to support the Board in the continued delivery of this essential governance process.



Please review the Motion and the FAQs. You may provide me with a contribution to the discussion in advance in email to egm2025@rps.org by Friday **7 February 2025, 5:00pm (GMT)**. To read the supporting documents and find out more about how to contribute visit www.rps.org/egm2025.

Your involvement with this process will help shape the RPS's future. My Trustee colleagues and I look forward to your participation at both the Town Hall meeting and the EGM.

Thank you for your support.

With all best wishes,



Melissa Magnuson ARPS
Deputy Chair of Trustees
Royal Photographic Society

