



· INSTITUTE · OF · HISTORIC ·  
BUILDING · CONSERVATION

## #IHBCPetitionforCharter

### Institute or Chartered Institute?

#### Introduction

IHBC is investigating the pros and cons of applying for Chartered status. Here are some sample questions to help you decide. If you still have a question, please send an email to [admin@ihbc.org.uk](mailto:admin@ihbc.org.uk) and we will respond. More details are on our '#IHBCPetitionforCharter' web resource at [petitionforcharter.ihbc.org.uk](http://petitionforcharter.ihbc.org.uk)

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#### 1. THE FUNDAMENTALS

##### ***What is the difference between an Institute, and a Chartered Institute?***

Chartered status could 'elevate' IHBC legally and reputationally, demonstrating that its governance is strong enough to be granted an instrument of incorporation by the King.

##### ***Why is that important to IHBC?***

We have been considering how to develop, and the most transformational is Chartered status. On a day-to-day level it should raise our profile and mean that individuals and organisations take us more seriously.

##### ***Don't they take us seriously now?***

On the whole yes! But we all know that (for example) the position and recognition of our members in local government has deteriorated while in private practice they can be side-lined due to the priorities of employers.

***So how does Chartering help the IHBC?***

A Charter will help advance our work on behalf of the built and historic environment conservation and conservation professionals, practitioners and specialists. (More information [here](#) and click on Business Papers)

***Will I benefit personally?***

A charter will grant an improved level of recognition that could help careers and employment. However, initially at least, we will not be Chartering individual members (see below '[Once we have a Charter](#)')

***In the middle of so many 'challenges' – is this just a distraction?***

A charter will offer a new and more substantial approach to addressing these many challenges, and as it is wholly in line with our wider agenda it would be remiss not to investigate it.

***Cut to the chase! Will Chartered status affect my membership fees?***

The cost may be up to £80,000 over 3-4 years, is within our budget and will enhance services and support. Membership fees will continue to rise with inflation and there is always the option to raise them in return for a specific outcome or service.

***Will it change the way IHBC is run?***

While we do not envisage any major changes to the way the institute is managed arising from Chartership, we do review staffing and resources from time to time to ensure we can serve our membership effectively, this would happen in any event.

**2. ONCE WE HAVE A CHARTER**

***Will it help my job/career prospects?***

We are investigating this, but it seems more than likely.

***Will it help conservation?***

We are positive it will and are investigating this too.

***Will I then be able to be chartered?***

Initially, we are being advised to become a Chartered Body only. Once we are fully bedded in, we can explore individual chartering as a 'phase two'.

***If I don't want to be chartered, or cannot, will it downgrade the value of my membership – or perceptions of it?***

Chartering ordinarily adds value to professional status. We encourage all practitioners to be the best they can possibly be, but NOT to work outside their own capacity, competence or interests.

Naturally, we would do our best to support anyone interested in chartered status, including by continuing to offer cost-effective resources to support their ambitions.

***If I do get chartered, will my salary/fees etc. see a corresponding uplift?***

Currently we think so, but we are investigating this further.

***I am chartered: will an additional Charter be of benefit to me?***

Practitioners often opt for chartered status in more than one chartered profession and equally, not all our members are Chartered by other Institutes, but it is a personal decision for you to make.

***I am not chartered, what's in it for me?***

We believe chartering raises the standing of your own personal area of practice, so you can only benefit from more positive public recognition, and likely at no cost.

***I work in a trade and value the many benefits of IHBC membership, so will things change for me?***

Access to services that support conservation and craft-based practice and support in all its diversity is one of our core values – if chartered status threatened that principle, it would also conflict with our capacity to secure a Charter.

### **3. ABOUT THE PROCESS**

***So, how do we get a Royal Charter?***

- First, we need the overwhelming support of the IHBC membership.
- Then we apply with a 'Petition to The Sovereign in Council'.
- The Privy Council Office scrutinises, and the King formally approves.
- Then, when ready we enact.

***Are we likely to succeed?***

Informal discussions to date suggest that with our charitable status allied to our focus on conservation in the public interest, we are very well suited to securing such recognition.

***How much extra work is involved?***

Preparation and exploration will help us improve our services and raise awareness of the diverse values in our approach to conservation. This is essential work (underpinned by our longstanding strategy across several *Corporate Plans*), regardless of Chartered status.

***Who does the work?***

We have set up a 'short life' Working Group to add capacity, oversee progress and report to the board. The decision to apply rests with the membership.

***Where do the IHBC Branches and volunteers fit in to all this?***

As ever, the IHBC's Branches and volunteers are critical to our evolution and success. Indeed without the capacity by volunteers there is little likelihood we will come up with the right answer.

#### **4. HOW CAN I HELP?**

We encourage Branches and volunteers to bid for funds to undertake local awareness-raising activities connected to the current consultation work.

***Can I help develop my own thoughts around this, as a volunteer, and register any change of mind?***

Absolutely! Please follow the guidance on the #IHBCPetitionforCharter web hub at [petitionforcharter.ihbc.org.uk](https://petitionforcharter.ihbc.org.uk) and/or speak to our officers, staff and volunteers to develop your thinking.

#### **5. NEXT STEPS?**

Once we have listened, surveyed, investigated and uncovered what we can, we will return to the members at our next AGM (DATE TO BE CONFIRMED) with an update and recommendations.

*Updated 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023*