



Suchit Desai MA ACII

Business Developer – Allianz Insurance and Deputy President of Insurance Institute of Manchester

After finishing his Masters in Finance, Accounting and Management, Suchit started working at AXA in their claims handling office in Lancaster. After working there for a year Suchit moved to Stoke-on-Trent to work for Davies Loss Adjuster dealing with property claims. While working at Davies, Suchit achieved his Cert CII and then moved to Manchester to work for Allianz Insurance. Shortly after this Suchit got involved with the Insurance Institute of Manchester and joined the Events Committee. Suchit has been at Allianz for over 6 years and has undertaken roles in Engineering Insurance, Underwriting, Sales and Account Management. In March 2017 Suchit was elected as the next Deputy President and will become President on 26th April 2018.

City centre dweller who enjoys his Cricket, Baseball and Football. Suchit's main passion is travelling and in 2016 he took a 7-month sabbatical from Allianz to travel around the world.



Keith Richards

Chief Executive of the Personal Finance Society and Managing Director of Engagement for the Chartered Insurance Institute

A recognised leader within the financial services sector, Keith has over 30 years' experience operating at executive level across both manufacturing and distribution. He has an established media profile and is a visible figurehead within the financial services sector, regularly called upon for comment both home and abroad by various organisations, including Trade and National press.

Keith established a strong media profile whilst representing one of the UK's largest IFA Networks (Tenet Group) as Group Distribution and Development Director, prior to which he was Head of Retail for the largest mutual insurance company in the UK, Royal London Group. Actively engaged in the promotion of financial services within the UK and internationally, he has contributed to the boards of both AIFA (now APFA) and AMI. He sits on the board of the European Financial Planning Association (EFPA), a member of various government and regulatory working groups and is Chairman of TISA Exco for Adviser Protocol having also represented the intermediary advice sector over many years on a number of panels and strategic leadership forums.

Keith was appointed Chief Executive of the Personal Finance Society (PFS) in May 2013 and subsequently appointed as Managing Director of Engagement for the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII) on 1st August 2016. In addition to guiding the operational and strategic evolution of the PFS he has developed greater government and regulatory engagement for the profession, brought about enhancements to membership benefits and its national CPD programmes. Keith has also introduced a number of key consumer and Professional Standards initiatives which include a consumer website, the largest accredited adviser director in the UK, a pro-bono advice programme in partnership with Citizens Advice as well as a national anti-scam, consumer confidence and United Profession Campaigns.



Simon Gallimore

Senior Manager Casualty Claims UK AIG Property Casualty

Simon has worked in the Insurance Industry for over 29 years and joined the CIS to take a steady job whilst he considered what he wanted to do. Like most folk who stumble into insurance once you in Simon has enjoyed a long and rewarding career. The first 22 years of his career were spent in the Personal lines market space where he held a number of senior leadership roles in policy servicing, sales and projects before settling into claims. His leadership roles have seen him le4ade teams of all shapes and sizes ranging from small project groups to large and diverse operational teams across multiple sites in multiple countries. His career has seen him work with RBS Insurance, Tesco Bank where he held the role of Head of Claims before joining AIG in 2011 where he now works as the VP of Casualty Claims for the UK.

Simon's self-confessed passion is his people and he describes one of his primary responsibilities as facilitating the careers of all of those who work in his broad team. Driving the design and development of the CII Accredited internal Development Framework for his claims teams has provided a clear structure for his team to follow very clear and defined career paths both technically and in leadership.

A local resident of Manchester Simon lives with his wife Debbie and 3 children Charlie (9), Amelia (6) and Oliver (21). As a season ticket holder at Manchester United being married to a lass from Liverpool is not always a harmonious place to be especially over the last 3 years.



Lesley Davies OBE

Principal and Chief Executive of the Trafford Group of Colleges

Former Senior Vice President at the UK's largest awarding body, Pearson UK and previously Deputy Chief Executive of the Association of Colleges, Lesley brings a wealth of knowledge and over 25 years of experience in education to the region.

Prior to joining Pearson, Lesley worked for the Association of Colleges (AOC), where she was Deputy Chief Executive. Her background is in teaching, in inspection and in policy development. Before her role at AoC she was National Director for the Framework for Excellence and Quality at the Learning and Skills Council. At the Adult Learning Inspectorate, she was responsible for the national inspection programme and the organisation's commercial division.

Lesley has also worked extensively overseas, advising governments on the introduction and development of vocational education systems and quality assurance and improvement mechanisms. In 2015 she was awarded the Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by HRH The Queen for services to education.

Lesley is currently the Chair of the UK Skills Partnership Group and Chair of the Trafford Youth Trust and was on the recent Trade Mission to China with the Prime Minister.