

## **Election to BCS Council (2025-28) – Nomination Statement**



**Darren Dancey MBCS**

Supporters: Leonard Keighley CITP CEng FBCS  
Lester Dias MBCS

### Statement:

I have been an engaged and active member of the BCS Manchester Branch, serving as Branch Chair since 2019 following a prior term as Vice Chair.

My enthusiasm for the technology and IT community in the Greater Manchester region initially inspired me to join the branch, and my experiences since have reinforced my belief that regional branches are a vital component of the BCS membership structure. They provide a tangible sense of community and act as local hubs connecting members to the broader BCS network and its initiatives.

I am particularly committed to ensuring that the regional branches maintain their pivotal role in representing communities beyond the membership concentrations in London and the South East, thereby fostering inclusivity and a national perspective within the BCS.

In addition to my involvement with the branch committee, I serve as Head of Department for a large university computing department. I have been a strong advocate for the values of the BCS as the Chartered Institute for IT by actively encouraging students and colleagues to engage with the BCS and pursue membership, highlighting the professional benefits of membership.

If elected to the Council, I will champion the importance of regional branches in connecting their members to the wider BCS community. I am committed to ensuring the BCS continues to be inclusive and representative of its diverse membership, with a strong emphasis on the value and contributions of its regional networks.

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**Bryan Jones MBCS**

Supporters: Kevin Fisher CITP MBCS  
Paul Rattray CITP MBCS

### Statement:

As the secretary of the BCS Edinburgh Branch and a committee member of the Scottish Testing Group, I have dedicated my career to fostering professionalism, inclusivity, and ethical practice in the tech community.

Our profession is built on trust, and I am deeply committed to upholding the highest professional standards. Technology is transforming society, and it is our responsibility to ensure it is used ethically and for the greater good. By championing initiatives that promote "tech for good," we can ensure our work makes a positive and lasting impact. Community lies at the heart of everything I do.

Through my roles with the BCS Edinburgh Branch and the Scottish Testing Group, I have seen firsthand the power of bringing people together to share knowledge, solve problems, and inspire innovation. I will strive to amplify this ethos within the BCS, fostering vibrant communities where professionals can network, share knowledge, and support each other's growth.

I believe that regional branches are vital to fostering these connections and amplifying the voices of local members. I am passionate about creating a professional environment that supports innovation while holding us accountable to the highest standards.

Together, we can build a stronger, more inclusive tech community that inspires trust and drives positive change. I would be honored to serve as your representative and would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the continued success of BCS.

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**Charlie Houston-Brown CEng MBCS**

Supporters: Alastair Irons CITP FBCS  
Dave Donaghy CITP CEng MBCS

### Statement:

Currently in my seventh year as Chairperson of Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Branch, I also remain a founding committee member of our Digital Divide Specialist Group.

Whilst on the (former) Programme, Practice and Policy committee, I chaired the Working Group for Member Groups – making 34 recommendations published for wider member consultation.

I am passionate about our Branch network and just how effective it could be for our BCS if initiatives and operations are connected through a local lens – joining our Branches and Specialist Groups with appropriate resources to present our 'offer' locally.

I wish to build a low friction operating model to work with our BCS 'centre' that could be used by any Branch that wished to. Knowing personally the frustration of member groups being unable to communicate directly with their own members, I want to champion our BCS to become data driven, with transparent strategies for systems that integrate, improve data quality, support collaboration, encourage growth and are fit for engagement with our chosen, segmented audiences; members, educators, young learners, early careers and of course future members.

As a current BCS Council member I am seeking your vote for a second three-year term. I take my roles – and so your vote – extremely seriously, having attended every BCS Council meeting during my initial three-year term to listen, understand and provide guidance.

From June 2024 I was elected to your Trustee Board by Council colleagues. Historically, things can move quite slowly in our BCS. Understanding the diverse challenges within our important organisation, if re-elected, I am well placed to help initiate improvements to benefit us all whilst continuing to make IT good for society. I am keen that accountability and responsibilities are made transparent, along with measurable deliverables against target timescales. Your vote will be a call to action.

Thank you.