

# CAREER DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE ELECTIONS 2014



## CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Post applied for: BOARD DIRECTOR WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

Candidate's Name: COLIN MARSH

**1. Brief details of relevant experience of the career development profession/s.  
(max 150 words)**

Joined Career Guidance profession in 1970, worked initially for East Sussex and Glamorgan County Careers Services before moving to first senior post – Industrial Liaison Officer and Sixth Form Specialist – with Leicestershire in 1974. Left to pursue new career opportunities in 1979, returning to mainstream career guidance work in North Wales in 1987. From 1997 onwards, I have worked mainly as a “locum” Adviser in a range of FE and HE Institutions. Posts held have included Careers Adviser at Oxford University, Senior Employability Adviser at Coventry University and Senior Course Adviser at City of Westminster College. My most recent post was as Careers Adviser/UCAS Coordinator at Leeds College of Music. Have also worked with long – term unemployed adults, including managing an Employment Support Project for Leicester City Council. I was also Careers Adviser and Education Officer for two Professional Associations, and although now reluctantly retired, am still seeking new work opportunities.

**2. Brief details of relevant experience of serving on Boards or Committees of this kind  
(max 150 words)**

First joined the ICG's predecessor in 1971, serving as a member of ICG National Council from 1990 to 1994, and for a number of years until the winding – up of ICG I was a member of the Ethics and Standards Committee, and also held Branch office in North Wales and the East Midlands.

I am currently in my 11<sup>th</sup>. Year as a Director and Trustee of a Charity, the British Stammering Association, but will have to stand down from this role next year. In this position, I have led for the BSA on a number of projects, including those involving employability and career guidance, and have had to acquire a detailed knowledge of

both Company and Charity Law. I have gained experience of work outside my normal remit – crisis management, for instance, and budgetary control, as well as Project Management. I also spent some years as a Parish Councillor.

**3. Personal statement of views about the CDI and this role (max 200 words)**

My view of CDI is that it is an idea whose time has come. As a young Careers Adviser, I felt that the proliferation of guidance – related organisations gave the wrong message to the public and, more seriously, damaged our credibility with policy makers and politicians. Later, when working outside careers guidance and as a Charity Trustee, trying to work with careers professionals, the number of different professional groups with different agendas could be confusing. Those of us who argued for a more rational approach in the past may now feel vindicated.

I first joined the old ICO in 1971, and have held continuous membership of it and its successor bodies ever since. My justification for joining, and being active in, ICG/CDI has always been that there is more to doing one's job than simply doing it, and membership of CDI is a statement of commitment not only to your own career but to the profession in its wider sense. It indicates that professional standards and ethical practices matter and should be a priority.

It is the very fact that this post carries no specific portfolio that particularly attracts me, as it will give me the opportunity to take on a range of responsibilities and projects as and when required, and a three – year term is long enough to see these through to completion. By not having a specific remit, I can take on any task that CDI requires without having too many preconceptions and retaining an open – minded approach.