

Volunteer Spotlight

Sally Friswell

BSc (Hons) CEng MIFireE



THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS
FOUNDED 1918 • INCORPORATED 1924



Tell us about yourself.

I'm a fire engineer based in Birmingham. I studied Fire Safety and Management at Leeds University and that is where I first came across the IFE.

How long have you been involved with the IFE?

I joined as an Associate member in 2005 and upgraded to Member grade in 2007. I then went on to become a Chartered Engineer in 2013. Alongside that, I have been volunteering for about five years.

Tell us about your volunteer roles.

I have reviewed CEng applications for five years and I've been on the IFERG committee for about two years. These two roles involve reviewing CEng and IEng applications and assessing them against the objectives. I normally review a couple of applications ahead of each committee meeting. I then attend the IFERG meetings which occur every other month, where all the application reviews are discussed and recommendations are made as to whether they can proceed to the next stage of being registered. I also help with the CEng and IEng interviews.

What made you want to volunteer with the IFE?

I started volunteering shortly after I became chartered myself. I appreciated that without the volunteers I wouldn't have been able to get to that point, so I want to support others in achieving their CEng too.

What is your favourite part of being an IFE volunteer?

My favourite part is attending committee meetings. I get to network with peers from the industry and be well informed in what's going on in the fire sector. There are also a couple of other people on the committee who are involved with promoting women in fire safety and engineering and we often share what we are doing or different schemes that we are involved with. If I hadn't been on the committee we may not have met!

Would you recommend volunteering with the IFE to others?

Yes, the Institution is reliant on volunteers to review and assess IEng and CEng applications and having professionally qualified people is so important to the industry, especially in the current climate.

Has volunteering impacted your career?

It has raised my profile within the wider industry and also within my work. I'm a lot of our engineers first point of call for guidance with their IFE applications!

June 2020