

# THE QUANTITY SURVEYOR



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## COMMENT

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Most members will have noticed the staff and policy changes that have occurred at Headquarters over recent years. Many familiar faces or perhaps voices to the majority have retired or moved on to pastures new. There is no denying the fact that many members find the changes not to their liking. There is criticism of the level of communication between 98 Gloucester Place and the general membership or, more particularly, the Branches.

It is a fact that the status of the Institute has grown rapidly over a very short period and membership has increased beyond even the most optimistic forecasts of a decade ago. The proportion of active membership, we suggest, has considerably declined, perhaps only 5 to 10% ever attend one branch meeting a year and perhaps only 2 to 3% ever volunteer to serve on Headquarter's Boards and Committees. This leaves a considerable volume of work to be carried out by very few, for to transfer (even if it was considered desirable) much that is now done voluntarily to an administration employed for the task, would be extremely costly.

The silent majority—we suggest at least 90% of the membership—appear to be happy to obtain their qualification and remain hopeful that the standing of the Institute will keep abreast of the other professional bodies within the industry. One should not criticise this attitude since those members appear quite satisfied with the service that is being provided.

It is balancing the opinions of the minority—all be it a very important and valuable active minority—with the assumed satisfaction of the silent majority, that is the task that faces most of the traditional institutions in this country.

To consider the future of our own Institute, aims must be set which can be achieved, they should be ambitious but not over optimistic. Time restraints on those members who participate must be recognised or more volunteers must come forward. Financial restraints must be recognised or subscriptions must rise substantially.

It is a problem that the whole membership must share. Our correspondence column could be enlivened with constructive debate. However, we anticipate a silence of (dare we assume) satisfaction.

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## FUTURE EDITIONS

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Design and Build—The QS Opportunity  
Export Finance.  
Postgraduate Courses in Construction  
Management—A Communications  
Exercise  
Retrospective Time Extensions in  
Building Contracts.

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## IMPORTANT DATES

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19th June 1981—AGM.