

Collaboration Between Professional Surveying Institutions: Chartered Civil Engineering Surveyor, RICS & CICES (UK)

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SUMMARY

This paper outlines the strategic collaboration between the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and the Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors (CICES), focusing on the alignment of professional qualifications and the shared use of the designation "Chartered Civil Engineering Surveyor" (CCES). Originally approved by RICS in 2009 and ratified in 2012, the CCES designation was designed to reflect the specialist competencies of professionals operating at the intersection of civil engineering and surveying. However, its implementation was deferred pending deeper institutional alignment.

In 2024, renewed efforts led to the formation of a joint RICS/CICES Working Group, co-chaired by James Kavanagh MRICS and Simon Hamlyn, CEO of CICES. This group was tasked with exploring mechanisms for mutual recognition, qualification alignment, and regulatory compatibility. The initiative builds on a decade of collaboration, including a Memorandum of Understanding and a direct entry agreement that has enabled over 300 CICES members to join RICS via the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (RPQ) route.

The paper details the initial stages of this renewed partnership, including the historical context, governance structures, and the agreed framework for qualification alignment. Key actions include the review of RPQ conditions, definition of competency and eligibility requirements for CCES, and the development of a joint assessment model. The competency framework draws from both institutions' specialisms—Geospatial Engineering and Commercial Management—ensuring that dual members meet rigorous standards across core and specialist areas.

This collaborative model not only strengthens professional mobility and recognition but also reinforces the shared commitment of RICS and CICES to uphold excellence in civil engineering

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surveying. The paper concludes with reflections on the governance pathway, stakeholder engagement, and the broader implications for professional standards and identity within the UK surveying sector.

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