

## FIS Board Elections 2022

FIS is governed by an elected Board of Directors which sets its policy and direction. Elections are held annually when nominations are invited from the membership. For more information on the FIS Board – [click here](#).

There are seven Contractor positions and five Supplier positions on the FIS Board. Vacancies for the new Board from 6 October 2022 are for two Contractors and three Suppliers, and the appointments will be for two years. The candidates have been given the opportunity to present a profile of themselves in support of their candidacy.

There are six Contractor candidates for two Contractor vacancies. When voting you may cast your vote for a maximum of two Contractor candidates only.

There are 10 Supplier candidates for three Supplier vacancies. Please remember that when voting you may cast your vote for a maximum of three Supplier candidates only.

Contractor candidates	
 <p>Peter Baker Managing Director, SCL Interiors (London)</p>	<p>I have worked in the interiors and facade sector for over 17 years, joining the industry from graduating university and working whilst gaining my masters in project management. Post-graduation I continued my professional development gaining my chartered status within the CIOB in 2009, becoming a fellow in 2013. I have been an active member of the IoD for many years, gaining fellowship in 2014, as well as an NVQ Level 7 in construction senior management.</p> <p>I've worked on site supervising projects, surveying and estimating, as well as building a design team, I have directed one of the industries market leading contractors for many years, helping shape our trades and expanding their services across the UK. Since 2020, I have built my own interiors and facade company with investment from FIS Member - Service Ceilings Ltd.</p> <p>If I am elected, I will endeavour to represent FIS in the most professional capacity, I will actively participate in the Association's workshops, events and Board meetings competently. Provide positive and constructive communication within the organisations associated with FIS and uphold the standards expected of a Board Member at all times.</p> <p>I will act with integrity, promote trust and take responsibility for duties expected of me.</p>
 <p>Stuart Deas</p>	<p>I have been MD and fully involved with the running and management of my company for over 35 years.</p> <p>Due to the company's well-run procedures and loyal staff I was still able to continue our works during the pandemic which is a real credit to all involved.</p> <p>I am personally involved with all aspects of the business - whether the project is changing a tap to a full refurbishment of an industrial unit. Consequently, I have good working relationships with a large variety of suppliers, and also a wide knowledge base of the products used in the interiors industry.</p> <p>In addition, I have managed the company to gain numerous professional accreditations</p>

<p>Managing Director, HP Contracts</p>	<p>including a suite of ISO certifications, which confirms my full and detailed knowledge of the interiors industry.</p> <p>I am also a past PIA president.</p> <p>If I am elected, I will endeavour to assist with everything that my wide range of knowledge can offer.</p> <p>I also believe the sharing of experience to all members is very important. As my company covers a full range of refurbishment and fit out projects I believe there will be a wide range of questions and problems other FIS members will ask which I am able to offer advice. This can cover anything from a supplier for unusual items to understanding CITB and its levy.</p> <p>In addition, I trust my help will be well received and prove useful by all at FIS.</p>
 <p>Will Hart CEO Taylor Hart Ltd</p>	<p>I have been in the interiors sector for over 30 years working for companies that specialise in various trades including passive fire protection, the removal of asbestos, thermal insulation, suspended ceilings, partitions, plastering, rendering, screeding and SFS.</p> <p>I joined the FIS Board in 2018, and to me, the true value of FIS became evident during the height of the coronavirus pandemic, when as a board we all worked selflessly to help all of our fellow contractor and supplier members navigate through the crisis on a daily basis. The energy shown by the FIS during that period was immense and I believe that energy can be transferred to other matters in the future.</p> <p>I would like to contribute more by promoting fair payment, pioneer the setting up of a new price indices for our trades, promote better and modern ways of contracting and generally bigging up what we all do together as a sector.</p> <p>Having formed Taylor Hart just over 24 years ago trying to build a company to last, I hope that I have a decent feel for the subcontracting world and if by re-joining the FIS board that could somehow benefit THL and other FIS members in a small way by championing our common causes that would be great.</p>
 <p>Kate Hawkins Pre-Contracts Director, Stanmore</p>	<p>Having worked in subcontracting field of construction for over 15 years, at the beginning of my career, I started in administration and coordination of trades, which allowed me exposure to many varied areas of the sector.</p> <p>My experience and passion have grown within the facade and drylining sector, as well as within Stanmore. Having culminated in the successful completion of a combined project value over £400m, with the single largest being £20m.</p> <p>Throughout my time in Stanmore. I have developed and grown design teams of 20 strong with ability to work on multi discipline sectors and offer key services, to clients, consultants and in house project teams. Developing my role, from coordinator, to design manager, head of design and now current role. I hope to inspire others to enable growth and development within current and further roles within the company and industry wide.</p> <p>If elected I hope to add my experience and knowledge to an ever-changing market and the challenges faced by the FIS members. I will add my voice to finding solutions and addressing issues faced by FIS members, by attending workshops and connecting with other bodies within the industry. I will help to progress further publications and support for members and wider industry on the immediate solutions needed, and long-term good practice that is very much required.</p>



Matthew Lawler  
Director, ML Interiors

I left school at 15 with no idea of where I would begin my working life. My father recognised this and so took me to work as his labourer fixing demountable partitions, ceilings, and many other elements of the fit-out sector.

After many good times and some bad times, we decided to part ways and I started ML Interiors as a labour subcontractor. After a few years I had built a large team of fitters and was enjoying life fixing for some great subcontractors.

My hard work was noticed, and I was eventually offered the chance to move up again and become a supply and fit subcontractor operating in the services offices market.

Along this journey I have realised the importance of customer service when delivering our services and the importance of understanding and adhering to all relevant standards. We are safe contractor accredited and use the HS Direct health & safety consultants to ensure we are fully compliant and have recently become registered fire door installers having passed all of our onsite and office audits.

As I started my journey in construction from a young age, I am a big advocate for offering opportunities to younger people. After many unsuccessful attempts to secure apprentices in demountable partitions, fire door installation, and other specialist areas it has become something that I believe needs to change.

If I could help bring about that change and help young enthusiastic people start their careers it would be something of an achievement for myself, ML Interiors and FIS.



Jonathan Riley  
Managing Director, Locker &  
Riley (Fibrous Plastering)

I have 30+ years' experience in fibrous and historic plastering and have run my own business, Locker & Riley, for 30 years.

I have been an active part of the FIS Board since conception and was part of the AIS & FPDC merger team responsible for bringing the two bodies together for a stronger voice within the industry.

I have sat on numerous working groups to develop educational pathways and standards for the Historic, Fibrous and Solid Plastering sectors, offering my time and personal experience for many years to help promote the sector and advance training in the industry. Recently I represented the Heritage Skills Plastering sub-group as part of the Heritage Skills NOS review team.

As well as being a Board member I am currently the chair of the Heritage Group within the FIS and have also represented the FIS to the National Heritage Training Group and Historic England.

I am also a Liveryman at The Worshipful Company of Plasterers and am passionate about ensuring our plastering heritage is maintained. I also Chair their Industry Committee connecting FIS to the Livery.

If I am elected, I will endeavour to further promote the Sector and training wherever possible in order to generate recruitment of new apprentices entering the sector.

Continue to support the Board achieve their Strategic Objectives and KPI's and to help grow the membership.

Continue to help FIS offer an improved Technical and "value added" service with a particular emphasis to the smaller more reliant members.

Continue to help promote high quality training and excellence for the maintenance of our historic buildings within the UK. I am particularly proud to have helped bringing about FIS & the Worshipful Company of Plasterers together to create the "2022 Training Awards" where the Lord Mayor will be presenting the awards in November to celebrate and recognise the successes in training within our industry.

Continue to help increase the FIS profile to the entire sector.

## Supplier candidates



Alan Brown  
Co-Owner, Forza Doors

I am currently a board member of FIS, I was elected in 2018 and since then the world of Brexit and Covid 19 has meant that my previous election manifesto agenda has been to say the least difficult to focus on. That said, I still believe that my vision for FIS is to be focused on support for the contractor members and this will remain my number one objective. Even though I part own a door manufacturing business called Forza Doors I recognise the need for a strong contractor membership and a strong voice within the construction sector from this section of the membership.

As I previously stated my Martin Luther King "I had a dream" moment would be to see how all association members can look to be specified on projects by RIBA practises, additionally be involved strongly within the D&B market, be included in the main contractors approved contractor schemes and encourage end users to use only FIS companies. This process should be one of the cornerstones of the association's objectives.

Over the past four years I've assisted with the marketing committee and the partitions and pods working group. The development of the Acoustic Verification Scheme for partitions is a considerable piece of work undertaken by FIS, this clearly highlights and benchmarks how specifiers should review key acoustic information when choosing a partitioning system.

I've heard for a number of years from non-FIS members the statement "well what benefit is there in being part of FIS". I know there is still much to do to convince contractors to join, the document prepared by FIS called "Reasons to Join" gives a great overview of the key benefits membership offers. We must strive to develop these points and ensure we retain our existing members, a drive for a growth in new membership that retains the focus on the high levels of installation is required.

There is a need for the industry to absorb the developing requirements for digital technology in ensuring the correct manufacture and installation of products, this is an area of the construction sector that will come under the microscope and the association should develop links to support contractors navigate their way through these new ways of working.

I feel that there is a need to set up stronger regional working groups which can focus on local issues and support new members in navigating the intricacies of the association so that they gain the most benefit from being part of FIS. These regional working groups should be chaired by a local member that has knowledge of the market conditions.

If any member voting in this election process would like to contact me for more information on my views, then please feel free to contact me on 07792 542413 or email me at [alanbrown@forza-doors.com](mailto:alanbrown@forza-doors.com)



Jonathan Cherry  
Sector Direct, Saint Gobain  
Interior Solutions

An Acoustic Engineer by background I started my career in British Gypsum where I held roles in Technical, Commercial, Marketing and Training.

I spent five years as Global Marketing Manager for Saint-Gobain Gyproc giving me huge experience of how our industry works in a wide range of markets across the world, experience I can use to bring new ideas and thinking to tFIS and our sector.

Between 2018 and 2022 I was Managing Director of Ecophon UK & Ireland before joining Saint-Gobain Interior Solutions as a member of the Exec Board as Sector Director with responsibility for the Commercial Sector.

I have over 25 years' experience working in the drylining and interiors industry in commercial, training, and technical roles. I am passionate about the long-term

	<p>development of the organisation to ensure it is recognised as the voice of our sector and has real and meaningful influence on how the industry and market develops. In a constantly changing and challenging environment, we need to ensure we are attracting the right number of people into our industry and deliver the development of sector skills and standards, taking control of the skills and training agenda. I believe my background and current position give me the knowledge, experience and drive to make a significant contribution to the continued success of FIS.</p> <p>I have been an FIS Board member for the last four years.</p>
 <p>Amanda Connolly Specification Manager Knauf Ceiling Solutions</p>	<p>I started with Knauf AMF in September 2014 as a commercial manager covering an area that had not been serviced for many years, the area was at best a blank canvas.</p> <p>Helping to build the Knauf name within my territory has enabled me to collaboratively work with Architects, Main Contractors and Subcontractors from all over the UK. With the completion of many projects and the success of these projects using Knauf products it encouraged me to increase my knowledge and commitment to the industry.</p> <p>I became a member of the IOA - Institute of Acoustics and successfully passed my Diploma in Acoustics and Noise control specialising in both Building Acoustics and Noise and Vibrational Control Engineering. This has helped me greatly to understand the bigger picture of construction and I am delighted to be a part of this industry.</p> <p>If I am elected, I will endeavour to recognise the integral part I would play as a board member in upholding the high standards of the FIS whilst promoting the benefits of being part of the FIS to current and future members.</p> <p>My role within one of the World's leading construction products suppliers empowers me with the ability to remain at the forefront of industry developments. I am committed to knowledge sharing and gain fulfilment from keeping my client base fully informed with the fast-paced changes in regulatory and statutory requirements both locally in Scotland but also further afield throughout the UK.</p> <p>I am a key contributor to my employers marketing campaigns and regularly post up-to-date information on LinkedIn and would bring these skills and proactive approach to my role as a board member for FIS given the opportunity. My focus initially would be to highlight the FIS and all it can offer to both principal contractors and subcontractors, many of whom I deal with on a daily basis.</p>
 <p>Robert Davis Commercial Manager UK, Etag Fixings</p>	<p>I am an ex-professional football player and have held roles within the construction sector as a Sales Director, Account Manager at DeWALT Stanley Black &amp; Decker for over 15 years before starting my role as Commercial Manager UK for Etag Fixings in the UK and ROI, which I have held for just over a year. My role at Etag is to improve current standards and implement new strategies not only commercially but from a sustainability standpoint. Due to new regulations along with consumer and stakeholder pressure regarding sustainability issues have made it crucial for the business to manage and demonstrate their due diligence on environmental, social and ethical risks in their business relationships, especially in their value chain.</p> <p>As a result, Etag, now more than ever, are including Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) requirements in their contracts, in the form of a so-called sustainability clause or CSR clause. This practice can significantly contribute to supplier performance improvement and prove highly effective for CSR and CSR strategy within the industry. My ambition is to make this a requirement within the sector, and through my past experience this can only be achieved by educating from the beginning.</p> <p>I am an active volunteer for SMA UK Charity, the Welsh Air Ambulance Charity Trust and the Professional Footballers Association.</p> <p>If I am elected, I will endeavour to strengthen, enhance and raise the profile of FIS. I would be whole heartedly committed and dedicated to support the current foundations</p>

	<p>in place.</p> <p>Through my understanding of relevant markets, experience and market insights I can easily identify new opportunities and where improvements can be made.</p> <p>I lead by example with values, discretion and confidentiality but fundamentally I will endeavour to get the best out of the other board members and strive towards the main objectives and mission.</p>
 <p>Lucia Di Stazio Group Marketing Strategy Director, Encon Group (Nevill Long)</p>	<p>My experience in the construction, building materials and home improvements sector spans over 20 years, the last 10 years at Board level, working with organisations across the supply chain in heavyside and lightside industries. Key skills are in business and marketing strategy, market research and data analysis, and helping businesses achieve sustainable growth in their markets. My work with industry trade bodies includes leading the CPA industry consultation in 2021 on the new Code for Construction Products Information (CCPI) and working with the Builders Merchants Federation to set up BMBI - the only reliable measure of RMI building activity in the UK. I have also been involved with the CPA External Affairs Committee and am a BMF Ambassador. I am a Freeman of the City of London and a Court Assistant of the Worshipful Company of Builders' Merchants, sitting on three committees and Chair of the Education &amp; Training Committee</p> <p>If I am elected, I will endeavour to support FIS and its aims to the best of my ability, using my experience and knowledge and working closely with other Board members to contribute positively to the progression of existing initiatives or help form new ones for the benefit of our members. With my strategic focus and passion for the industry, I will be active in representing FIS and the finishes and interiors sector, whether that be on new regulatory standards, new policies or leading on skills development and diversity in the sector. I joined Encon &amp; Nevill Long at the end of January this year and was pleased to join the FIS Marketing Committee a few months later. I very much hope I will be elected as a Board member and look forward to the opportunity.</p>
 <p>Karl Hutchinson Technical Director, Specwall</p>	<p>20 years in the construction industry, managed all aspects of design, construction. An in-depth knowledge of all aspects of a construction project phases, worked with Knauf, Lindner and many main contractors as a senior design manager. Knowledge of all aspects in interior fit out from plasterboard systems to glass partition and ceiling systems.</p> <p>Now a Technical Director of Specwall an innovation Walling system, ensuring all aspects of our company are technically in line with all standards and certifications.</p> <p>If I am elected, I will endeavour to share my wealth of experience in developing and building relationships with FIS Members and be a voice for the sector. I will engage with all our members across the board, offering the full extent of my knowledge to help meet challenges head on within the industry and openly communication and promote FIS. I will provide a contribution to the board and openly give objective criticism, independent judgement on strategy, performance, resources and standards of conduct.</p> <p>Personally I am also here to help connect the business with networks of potentially clients and organisations, to provide the board independent, impartiality, experience, knowledge and personal qualities.</p>
	<p>Having attained a B.Sc (Honours) in Timber Technology, I moved into the PFP &amp; more recently, the drywall sector where I have worked for over 30 years at senior management level. I graduated with a Masters (Distinction) in Fire Safety Engineering in 2008 and am a Member of the Institution of Fire Engineers (MIFireE).</p> <p>I have developed considerable expertise in PFP and drywall construction, including manufacturing, development, testing, certification and specification, more recently focussing on competency in our sector. I am an active member of the ASFP (being an</p>

<p>Nigel Morrey Technical Director, Etex Building Performance</p>	<p>elected Council Member for over 20 years) and have previously been a Board member of FIS and still work closely with the FIS team in a number of areas.</p> <p>Over recent years I have had published many articles supporting the appropriate use of drywall, PFP and firestopping systems and actively promoted the use third party certification (product &amp; installation).</p> <p>If I am elected, I will endeavour to work closely with FIS and other like-minded industry bodies including trade associations and the certification bodies to ensure that the drywall sector, both from an installer and manufacturer perspective) is properly represented and is fairly positioned in light of the changes that will be progressively implemented over the coming years as a consequence of the Building Safety Bill and the subsequent secondary legislation.</p> <p>Furthermore, I would look to drive the competence agenda in the drywall sector, developing on the excellent competence work already put in place by FIS for the installer but now giving more focus on the competence of the other parties in the supply chain ie working with the manufacturers to ensure recognised competency levels to deliver the quality and consistency of specification, technical support and site installation support to meet the needs of the rapidly evolving construction design, build and operate processes.</p>
 <p>Joseph Sargeantson Technical Director, Hadley Industries</p>	<p>My professional background is broad and deep and has allowed me to experience construction from a variety of viewpoints and understand the vastly different motivations of the various stakeholders involved in construction projects. Within my professional history I have held the following positions that demonstrate the breath of experience I would bring to the position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tech Support Officer / Engineer Knauf; working at the lowest level dealing with site to architect queries</li> <li>- Project Specification Manager / Engineer Knauf; working face to face and onsite with subcontractors; main contractors; architects; and clients of all sizes and types as well as dealing directly with distribution on commercial deals.</li> <li>- Technical Service Director Knauf; I was the 'end' of responsibility for the full technical support for all of Knauf product groups, systems and specifications for the whole of the UK &amp; Ireland. Introduced client lead changes and additions to process during the volatile immediately post-Grenfell era.</li> <li>- Drylining Consultant JGDC; assisting in the business set-up I jumped over to the over side of the conversation from previous experience mostly working with clients and architects directly initially and seeing the flaws within the current technical set-ups across drylining, SFS, ceilings, floors, doors and building regulations. This experience gave me the stakeholder viewpoint I'd been sorely missing whilst at Knauf and allowed me to simplify what the clients actually want versus what manufacturers want to gives them.</li> <li>- Technical Director Hadley Industries; coming on board at Hadley I setup the building systems technical division that covers the whole of the UK, Ireland, Dubai, as well as linking into Thailand and the USA. At Hadley we are a manufacturer, a subcontractor, a consultant, as well as a developer so my understand of the stakeholders in industry is ever widening and allows me to take decisions with the full breadth of my experience and understanding.</li> </ul> <p>If I am elected, I will endeavour to further expand upon the interconnectivity of the fit-out and finishing sector and ensure the interactions with outer industry sectors and bodies are understood whilst looking to develop with them rather than in spite of them; bringing a unique insight from my professional background and my diverse heritage.</p>
	<p>I have supported FIS at Board level for over a decade and was President for two years in 2018 and 2019. I remain an active, committed and driven Board member of FIS. Previously I also supported other trade bodies at board level, SCIA, AIS and ASFP.</p> <p>At FIS I was a founder member of the Acoustics Forum and was the originator and a key</p>



Andrew Smith  
MD, OWA (UK)

author of the AIS Guide to Acoustics in offices. I also worked with FIS (AIS) on the issue of Strategic Planning in small businesses in construction for my MBA research project at The University of Southampton. I firmly believe in the important role of trade bodies to drive quality and encourage community and fellowship for members.

I have been Managing Director at OWA (UK) Ltd for seventeen years and passionately support the development and success of the company operating in the UK acoustic ceilings market.

If re-elected I will continue to add value, challenge and encourage the professional development of the organisation and to support the Interiors sector.

Strategic Planning is an area of expertise for me and I have enjoyed influencing the development of FIS strategy for many years. Strategy should be clear and focused but also needs to adapt to the changing opportunity and challenge in the sector and I will continue to help FIS to adapt and thrive accordingly.

My commitment to FIS is unwavering and passionate and my loyal attendance is beyond doubt, currently sitting on the Finance Committee and Board of FIS, very rarely missing any meeting or event. I recently encouraged the Board toward the new role of Head of Membership and was actively involved in the selection of the appointed individual.



Nigel Watkins  
Director, Rockfon

I have spent most of my career in the interior fit-out sector in various roles starting as a bench joiner when leaving school for a large shopfitting company, through to spending the last 13 years with Rockfon, starting as an area sales manager, then in various commercial roles, to now having overall management responsibility for the entire UK & Irish businesses.

I feel it is this very grounded/ practical/ bottom-up experience that would benefit the FIS greatly.

Our business has always been a strong supporter of FIS over the years (through supporting the wider events taking place and through our continued involvement in all relevant technical committees).

I personally am very passionate about our industry and would welcome input in shaping the future of our sector through FIS in any way I can.

Rockfon have not had a presence on the FIS board previously, and I can commit that the FIS would get the support of the wider Rockfon organization at all levels if I were to be successful in this application, and I feel I would bring a level of passion, commitment and entrepreneurial spirit to the table.