

**Administration by BCS**

c/o 3 Newbridge Square, Swindon SN1 1BY

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COUNCIL OF PROFESSORS AND HEADS OF COMPUTING

Minutes of the Committee meeting of the Council of Professors and Heads of Computing held on **Monday 2 February 2026** online

**PRESENT**

Nicky Danino (Chair)	Damien Foster	*Kevin Chalmers
Steven Bradley	*Rob Aspin	Haris Mouratidis
*Silvester Czanner	Funmi Obembe	Darren Dancey
Kate Hone	*Dharam Shadija	Jonathan Wallace
Daniela Tresoldi (EPSRC)		

**IN ATTENDANCE (Secretariat)**

Maxine Leslie (BCS - sec)  
*\*joined for part of meeting*

**APOLOGIES**

Paul Sant	Rebecca Strachan	James Davenport
Fiona McNeill (BCS Academy)	Laura McDonnell (EPSRC)	

**1. Welcome, apologies and declaration of conflicts of interests**

There were no conflicts of interest and apologies for absence were received as above. M Leslie undertook to attach agenda and papers to the meeting invitations in future.

**ACTION: M Leslie**

**2. To approve minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2025 [CPHC/2025/23]**

The minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 3 December 2025 were accepted as a true record and approved for transfer to the website [*action complete*]. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda are at item 3.

**3. Matters arising**

**3.1.1 Matters arising: Workshop programme (Jul 25)(Dec2025.3; item 3.1.3)** – for the action to work with the new BCS Academy Board Chair (once appointed in March 2026) on a co-ordinated workshop programme, M Leslie undertook to invite BCS Academy Board members to the Conference including the in-coming Chair (Steve Pettifer, University of Manchester).

**3.1.2 NI HoS update (Dec2025.5; item 7.6)** – for the action for P Sant and J Wallace to liaise on providing guidance/policies to address sustainable/green computing issues for CPHC, J Wallace reported that a very positive meeting had been held to share information on this and J Wallace was happy to consult further.

**3.1.3 NI HoS update (Oct2025.6; item 7.6)** – for the action for CPHC Officers to give further thought to how to replicate J Wallace’s NI engagement workshop on AI and software engineering, J Wallace will be attending the Conference and could deliver a session on this topic.

#### **4. EPSRC/UKRI Update**

D Tresoldi reported that members will receive the update from the November meeting with Learned Societies by the end of February. EPSRC will soon be asking the community (CPHC Committee and wider membership) for help with a new ICT strategy via an email circulated by the Secretariat.

Further to the SAT meeting, there has been a re-framing of the narrative and a need identified to agree some wording to encourage researchers to undertake work in the area of specific ‘frontiers’ eg, fundamentals of computing, software engineering, future computer paradigm, electronics aspects in ICT spectrum and distributed and complex systems in the UK. This will help with defining a starting point for academic and industry researchers and will enable applicants to see what kind of research EPSRC is funding. It is expected that there will be a 2-3 hour meeting at the end of March to reflect and wrap up discussions in this area. There is no link between this work and parallel work being undertaken by DSIT.

#### **5. CPHC Conference update**

There had been a slow start to the organisation but now there is a date, venue and host agreed: Thursday 16/Friday 17 April 2026 at Manchester Metropolitan University. The schedule is being put together and there is a form for potential contributors to complete, which has been circulated to members and the SPG Principal Investigators. The Eventbrite entry is being set up and the link will be available to share and promote very shortly, including an early bird discount of 20%, available to the end of February.

Members were asked to forward the MS Form link to any contacts that might be interested in speaking/contributing. **ACTION: Members**

Volunteers were being sought to run the funding session on Day 2 with EPSRC. D Tresoldi had confirmed attendance and both S Czanner and D Foster were happy to chair the session but potentially had other commitments. Both hoped to confirm attendance or send apologies within the next week.

Other ideas were to secure an industrialist to speak or run/participate in a panel discussion. It would be important to link sessions to the strategy, eg cybersecurity and AI. D Dancey and R Aspin undertook to look into possible invitees in the Manchester/Preston regions. R Aspin will also look into possible contributors from NCSC (no names) and DSIT.

**ACTION: D Dancey/R Aspin**

For the AGM, M Leslie undertook to send a reminder to K Chalmers about the announcement to members, due 6 weeks in advance of the AGM (5 March), along with the templates.

**ACTION: M Leslie**

#### **6. Programme of work**

**6.1 SP1** *Champion the growth of confident, capable, and future-ready academic leaders in computing across the UK [Owner: K Hone; contributor: D Foster]* – no update since the last meeting.

**6.2 SP2** *Provide national leadership on integrating emerging technologies, particularly AI/cyber security [Owner: J Davenport; contributor: D Shadija]* – no update.

- 6.3 SP3 Advance equity, diversity, and inclusion in computing [Owner: R Strachan; contributor: P Sant]** – no update.
- 6.4 SP4 Foster a vibrant and engaged membership by articulating the collective benefits and influence of CPHC [Owner: S Bradley]** – members discussed the chair and membership of the SPG Review Panel. R Strachan will be standing down at the AGM and F Obembe had volunteered to join the Panel. There was some lack of clarity about the chair's term of office. If S Bradley will be standing down, there will be a need to appoint a new chair. It was further noted that two new trustees will need to be appointed to replace R Aspin and S Bradley (as appropriate), post April 2026.

The Review Panel undertook to meet to discuss a possible hybrid approach to SPGs in future, combining the current system with invitations to participate in CPHC-determined project(s) which align with the CPHC strategy. There was concern that project topic areas might be influenced by the Review Panel member interests but it was hoped that the SP1 survey would help to broaden this out.

**ACTION: SPG Review Panel**

## 7. UPDATES

- 7.1 Chair's Update** – N Danino referred to the full planning phase for the Conference (see item 5 above) and confirmation that CPHC will be sponsoring the Lovelace Colloquium for £1,000.
- 7.2 Treasurer's Update including CPHC subscription update [CPHC/2026/02]** – it was noted that the total subscription fees due have increased compared to the 2024/25 total mainly due to a few substantial increases in computing staff FTE.
- 7.3 Secretary's Update** – K Chalmers expressed concern about the number of resignations from the membership compared to the number of new members (2). There are now 100 institutional CPHC members. Members considered whether some institutions might favour the Engineering Professors Council or PSRB membership above CPHC membership. K Chalmers underlined the importance of a better value and unique proposition. A strategy has been created, but perhaps this should be more specifically targeted. One option could be to increase the fees (EPC fees are scaled depending on staff FTE and are higher). This might lead to resignations but the value and exclusivity could be improved. N Danino underlined the importance of the member survey (SP1) in finding out what people think about this area. It might be worth dedicating a Conference session on this or raising it with members at the AGM.

S Bradley noted (in the chat) that 44 institutions are running a deficit <https://wonkhe.com/blogs/the-state-of-sector-finances-2024-25/> It may "only" be £1,000 but many places are cutting all discretionary spend.

K Chalmers asked who had attended the Conference/Summit in the past few years. It would be helpful to ask attendees what they found useful and what we could do to attract others. M Leslie undertook to compile a list. Some potential attendees may be happy to join online, but not in person.

**ACTION: M Leslie**

- 7.4 SPG** – S Bradley reminded members that the next round is due at the end of March 2026 and had just sent a meeting request to N Danino, R Strachan and F Obembe to discuss the project categories. It was suggested that instead of putting out a call for proposals, it might be better to suggest certain bigger projects and put a request out for participants. This would have the advantage of not wasting the time of applicants that might be unsuccessful and encouraging cross-institutional collaboration.
- 7.5 UKCRC** – nothing to report as there had been no meeting since the last CPHC meeting.

7.6 **NI HoS [CPHC/2026/03]** – J Wallace provided a written update and undertook to share the agentic AI and software development life cycle presentation if granted permission to do so. This might be a good topic for the Conference.

7.7 **Welsh HoS** – no report as currently no representative.

7.8 **Scottish HoS** – no report as F McNeill had sent apologies for the meeting.

7.9 **Updates from Other Organisations & Activities** – nothing to report.

## 8. LinkedIn blogposts

The Chair reminded members to forward any ideas for blogposts to [N Danino](#) or [M Leslie](#).

## 9. AOB

There were no items of AOB and the Chair thanked members for their input and closed the meeting.

### FUTURE MEETINGS *All commencing at 11.00am, unless otherwise stated*

COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2026	CONFERENCE/AGM DATES 2026
Wednesday 20 May 2026 – BCS London Monday 13 July 2026 – Online *Tuesday 13 October 2026 (13:30-16:30) – BCS London Wednesday 2 December 2026 – Online	Thursday 16/Friday 17 April – Manchester Metropolitan University

*\*to be co-located with UKCRC Executive Committee & BCS Academy of Computing meetings*

### Actions – responsible people in red

#	Item	Min	Action	Who
Feb2026.1	Welcome...	1	Add papers to meeting invitations in future	<b>M Leslie</b>
Feb2026.2	CPHC Conference update	5	Forward the <a href="#">contributor MS Form</a> to any contacts who may be interested in participating	<b>Members</b>
Feb2026.3			Look into possible contributors from industry, based regionally	<b>D Dancey</b>
Feb2026.4			Contact DSIT/NCSC for possible contributors	<b>R Aspin</b>
Feb2026.5			Send an AGM reminder/templates to K Chalmers 6 weeks in advance (5 March)	<b>M Leslie</b>
Feb2026.6	Prog of work: SP4 SPG	6.4	Meet to discuss possible changes to the SPG	<b>SPG Review Panel</b>
Feb2026.7	Secretary's update	7.3	Compile list of Conference/Summit attendees from the past few years	<b>M Leslie</b>
Dec2025.1	Matters arising: Chair's update (Oct 25)	3.1.1	Liaise on publicising J Wallace's work in NI on LinkedIn and/or a specific area of the website	<b>N Danino/ J Wallace</b>
Dec2025.2	Matters arising: AOB: CPHC patron (Oct 25)	3.1.2	Contact Hannah Fry to ask if willing/available to become a patron	<b>J Davenport</b>
Dec2025.3	Matters arising: Workshop programme (Jul 25)	3.1.3	Work with the new BCS Academy Board Chair (once appointed in March 2026) on a co-ordinated workshop programme	<b>N Danino</b>
Dec2025.4	Programme of work: SP2	6.2	Initiate the publication of AI data following the NI research work and	<b>J Davenport/ J Wallace</b>

			liaise on circulating the methodology to CPHC members so that they can conduct their own surveys	
<b>Dec2025.5</b>	NI HoS update	7.6	Liaise on providing guidance/policies to address sustainable/green computing issues for CPHC	<b>P Sant/ J Wallace</b>
<b>Dec2025.6</b>	Welsh HoS update	7.7	Contact potential Welsh HoS rep at Wrexham to see if willing to be co-opted	<b>D Shadija</b>
<b>Oct2025.2</b>	Programme of work	6.2	Liaise on SP2 Provide national leadership on integrating emerging technologies, particularly AI/cyber sec	<b>J Davenport/ D Shadija</b>
<b>Oct2025.3</b>	Chair's update	7.1	Provide any ideas for including on the LinkedIn page to N Danino	<b>Members</b>
<b>Oct2025.5</b>	UKCRC update	7.4	Raise topic of research funding across Europe with Summit planning group	<b>N Danino</b>
<b>Oct2025.6</b>	NI HoS update	7.6	Give further thought to how to replicate J Wallace's NI engagement workshop on AI and software engineering	<b>CPHC Officers</b>
<b>Oct2025.8</b>	AOB: CPHC patron(s)	9.1	Provide any further ideas on possible CPHC patron(s) directly to <a href="mailto:n.danino@leedstrinity.ac.uk">n.danino@leedstrinity.ac.uk</a>	<b>Members</b>
<b>July2025.5</b>	AOB: NCSC liaison on cyber sec	9.1	Liaise on setting up a Zoom link for the cyber security webinar	<b>J Davenport/ M Leslie</b>
<b>May2025.4</b>	Updates: AI update	9.0	Liaise with BCS (Adam Leon Smith/James Woodward) on asking industry members the thoughts posed by JHD [July 25 update: JHD liaising with Sharron Gunn, BCS Group CEO]	<b>J Davenport/ K Chalmers</b>