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## Nationally Elected Councillor

### JO BACON

- a. **Nominated by:** Graham Morrison, Jim Eyre, Peter Morris, Tracy Meller, Mary Duggan, Jo Van Heyningen, Abigail Hopkins
- b. **Practice Address:** 85 Southwark Street, London SE1 0HX
- c. **Position:** Managing Partner, Allies and Morrison
- d. **Qualifications:** MA Dip Arch (Cantab) RIBA RSA



### Election Statement:

The RIBA represents a huge diversity of talent internationally but we all need to help to develop and enhance the reputation of the profession. I suggest there are five areas to focus on: retention of talent; diversity; post Brexit considerations; commercial limitations which exclude predominantly smaller practices and lastly communications with RIBA members.

To retain talent we need to communicate with future Architects the value of qualification - promoting more accessible, less expensive and varied ways of obtaining the training.

We must make the profession more diverse so new talent does not feel excluded. We have proportionally fewer qualified women compared to law or medicine and the profession needs to be more accessible for lower income candidates, ethnic minorities and architects qualified internationally. This will only make our talent base stronger and better.

The effects of Brexit have to be addressed. Government needs to understand the value of UK qualifications internationally and the need for education and talent exchange across borders. The supply of creative, technical and competent people, across the UK, is essential to maintain the entrepreneurship and creativity for which UK architecture is renowned.

On the commercial side, we need to address the application of the apprenticeship levy to the profession; fee levels, uninsurable terms and competition limitations which often work against predominantly small and emerging practices.

All these issues need to be discussed and communicated, with a wide group of Members, so the RIBA can offer support and leadership to the profession. I have firsthand experience of this level of engagement as a member of the RIBA Awards Group. It has been an honour to see the thoughtful and careful attention brought by volunteer members to a rigorous review process. It is this much-needed member involvement which is the very best of what we do that needs encouragement. Then the good work the Institute is progressing needs to be better communicated in order to engage, interest and inspire the very talent we need.

I have been an Architect for 30 years, as well as a working mother, mentor, teacher and Partner of Allies and Morrison. I like to make things happen and, as a member of Council, I hope to collaborate with a wider team of members to bring greater value to the RIBA. .