



Humber Branch Committee

David Talbot FEI - Chairman

Please tell us about your background

I spent 21 years as an officer in the RAF, leaving in 2007 as a squadron leader after a very exciting career. On leaving the RAF I initially worked for SERCO as the deputy Contract Manager at RAF Cranwell providing all of the support services for the base from transport and fuels to clothing and even fire support. I was also the contract manager at RAF Scampton for a while, the home of the Red Arrows.

I then moved on to become the business development manager and then head of outdoor education and work based learning for TQ Education and Training, a Pearson company. This was followed by some time at BAE Systems, heading the project to build and then lead a new aircraft maintenance academy at Humberside airport.

A move to become the CEO at CATCH was a great opportunity that I couldn't turn down and I took over the role in January 2016. Since then I have worked to expose the huge capability and potential of this exciting and unique organisation.

In my (limited) spare time I enjoy walking (especially now with our new family puppy), playing golf and watching Stoke City Football Club (COVID-19 aside!)

Talking about your role what excites you the most about your position as chairman of EI Humber Branch?

When I took over at CATCH I was asked to sit on the Humber Branch committee of the Energy Institute. I enjoyed the work of the Branch and the exposure through it to the wider energy sector within the region. The Humber is the self-proclaimed Energy Estuary and it was important to me that CATCH and myself were exposed to the Energy Institute and their work within the region and wider. Since taking over as Chair I have tried to increase the activity of the Branch through webinars and events such as energy conferences (both in conjunction with CATCH and the University of Hull). I suppose the most exciting element of the role for me is meeting the members in the region and networking with people from different organisations and different parts of the broad energy

sector. It is also about developing young people and I am really pleased that the Humber region now has a fledgling Young Professionals' Network group.

How can associations like the Energy Institute ensure they are responsible and continue to contribute to the success of the industry we represent?

Energy is a critical issue on the National stage and the PM's announcement recently of the 'Big 10' shows the commitment to the green agenda around energy that is so important to the Humber region (the Energy Estuary). Associations such as the EI must stay relevant, and support the green agenda at the highest level in industry and Government, coupled with getting young people excited about the sector. The Young Professional's Network is a great capability that supports the development of our future talent.

What would you like to achieve with the Humber Branch in the next few years?

The Branch has already gone through a root and branch review of its activity and has started to focus on delivering high quality webinars. The latest webinar in October on the H21 Project was held in conjunction with the Yorkshire Branch and had almost 200 delegates, receiving fantastic feedback! My intent is to maintain a regular drum beat of high quality events, hopefully moving them back to f2f (while retaining an online presence) in the New Year. I want to support the new Humber YPN and help it to grow, while working closely with schools, colleges and Universities to get young people excited about energy and STEM in general. Ultimately, I believe that the Humber Branch of the EI should be the most dynamic Branch across the organisation; we are after all the Energy Estuary!

To find out more about the EI – visit <https://energyinst.org/>