



Richard Smith

*Managing Director, Road Haulage Association
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The Alliance of Logistics Trade Associations*

To my fellow Carmen,

The Carmen has become an important part of my life in recent years. I've grown to respect the Company not only for its long-standing traditions, but for the people within it — people who care about their professions, about each other, and about giving something back to an industry we are all passionate about.

That sense of fellowship — people from different parts of the industry coming together with a shared purpose — is something I value and want to help strengthen.

I've enjoyed being involved, and I'm now putting myself forward for election to the Court because I want to play a more active part in helping the Company grow, stay relevant, and continue doing what it does so well.

By way of background, I am Managing Director of the Road Haulage Association (RHA). We represent a wide range of transport businesses — hauliers, van fleets, coach operators — right across the UK. Our members move the goods, people, and services that keep the country running.

I spend a lot of time listening to their concerns, speaking with ministers, officials, key stakeholders and the wider industry. I try to bring people together to solve problems and make the case for a sector that's essential but often overlooked.

I also chair the Trade Association Forum (TAF), which brings together over 180 membership organisations across the economy. Many of them have a stake in transport and logistics, and together we represent more than 190,000 businesses. The scale of that gives me perspective — not just about our own sector, but about how transport and logistics connects with the wider economy and everyday life.

Alongside this, I helped bring together the Alliance of Logistics Trade Associations (ALTA) — eleven trade bodies who've agreed to collaborate, rather than compete, on the big national issues. It's not about creating another organisation but about speaking with one clear voice when it matters. That's the mindset I'd bring to the Carmen Court.

I also believe strongly in what the Carmen exists to do. Recognising people who make a difference. Supporting education. Giving quietly to those who need a helping hand. Standing by our Armed Forces and maintaining our links with the City of London.

These are things that matter — and they've always been part of the Company's purpose. Through my work at the RHA, I've supported the Armed Forces Covenant, and I know many fellow Carmen share that commitment to those who serve.

The world is changing, and our sector is changing with it. If the Carmen is to remain strong and relevant, we've got to keep opening our doors. We need to engage more actively with younger people, with new areas of industry, and with professionals who may not yet know what the Carmen stands for — but would absolutely benefit from being part of it. That's something I'd like to support and believe I can add great value to.

I've also looked for ways to help raise the Carmen's profile and create opportunities for people to learn more about what the Company does. We've invited the Carmen to join us on the RHA stand at this year's Commercial Vehicle Show, and they've also been involved in our Future Forum events. This time, they'll have a stand of their own, and we're discussing the possibility of a speaking slot too. I'll continue to do what I can to support that kind of exposure — practical things that help make the Carmen more visible and more connected to the wider industry.

This year, the RHA is also taking part in Cart Marking, bringing our truck simulator — pulled by an electric vehicle. It's a small gesture, but it says something about the direction of travel: new technology, new talent, new ways of thinking, all rooted in the heritage we're proud of.

What I bring is experience, a network, and the ability to engage and communicate — not just in a formal sense, but on a personal level. Whether it's with government, industry, or individuals, I try to listen first, contribute wherever I feel I can add value, and work constructively and collaboratively with others.

If elected, I'll do my best to contribute in a steady and thoughtful way. I'll support the Master, Wardens and fellow Court members to the best of my ability, and I'll play my part in helping the Carmen continue to thrive — for its members, for the profession, and for the future of our industry.

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