

## **Dr Nigel MacLennan – Election Statement**

'For far too long it appears that the BPS has been run by paid staff, for paid staff, at the expense of members.'

That is not the case, but it feels true because members' and volunteers' experience is that the service they pay for is not as it should be.

Only a tiny number of people qualified to be BPS members have chosen to stay with. Most walk away: we simply don't deliver for them; we engage in, at best, 'tick-box listening.'

The BPS is around 6 times as large as the Royal College of Psychiatry, but has a tiny fraction of the influence.

Why? Because we, as a professional body, have been too passive, too reactive, and in many cases, completely unresponsive (especially to member needs).

Our staff are generally competent, but the systems, structure and culture we have are not conducive to achieving what the BPS could be.

Harnessing psychology to lead performance improvement has been my role for decades, (Doctorate in Leadership Coaching), and I see the huge gulf between what the BPS could and should be every day.

I have led the leaders of several multi-billion-pound organisations to adopt cutting-edge practice and make substantial improvements. Shouldn't that be us? Shouldn't our BPS be seen as epitomising cutting-edge practice?

Our BPS could be and should be the UK's most influential professional organisation, and it can be, if we, among other things, harness the vast and deep expertise of our members, to support our paid staff.

Consider this question: Do we want the BPS continue as is, or do we want to wake a sleeping giant to stand to its full height in the professional community?

Will you vote to improve the BPS?

- Nigel MacLennan