

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Professor Brian Collins

University College London
Emeritus Professor of Engineering Policy - Department of Civil,
Environmental and Geomatic Engineering
Vice Chair, National Preparedness Commission

Systemic leadership in a TUNA world

Biography. Professor Brian Collins took up the role of Professor of Engineering Policy at UCL on 1st August 2011 retiring as emeritus in 2020. He led the creation of a £278M capital investment programme in 14 Universities in the UK, UKCRIC, which he launched in 2017 which enables the UK to have a robust and innovative research and analysis base for informing the £700B estimated spend in Infrastructure in the UK in the next few decades.

He is also currently vice chair of the National Preparedness Commission, whose mission is to help the UK be better prepared for an uncertain future. https://nationalpreparednesscommission.uk/

Prior to joining UCL he was the Department for Transport's (DfT) Chief Scientific Adviser (DCSA) from October 2006 and DCSA for the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) from March 2009 after being DCSA in Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) from May 2008, during which time Energy policy was in his remit. During that time with GCSA, he led the creation of the network of CSAs, and was involved in the studies that created the DCSA for national security. He left both DCSA positions at the end of June 2011.

He has contributed to many committees and boards; Safer Complex Systems as part of Engineering X at RAEng, Science as an Open Enterprise at Royal Society, Cybertrust and Crime Prevention Foresight study, CST report 'A National Infrastructure fit for 21st Century, RAEng Trustee Board, EPSRC Council, Vice President on the Trustee Board of IET.

He was Professor of Information Systems at Cranfield University from August 2003 to 2011.

Prior to these activities he was Global CIO for Clifford Chance, IT Director for the Wellcome Trust, Chief Scientist for all UK Intelligence Services and Director of Technology at GCHQ at the end of the 1980s. He was Deputy Director at RSRE just prior to privatisation into now what is Qinetiq and DSTL.

He was bestowed by Her Majesty the Queen the Honour of Companion of the Bath (CB) in the 2011 New Years Honours list. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 2009

He holds a visiting Professorship at Southampton University and Honorary Doctorates at Kingston and City of London Universities.

He has an MA in Physics and a D.Phil in Astrophysics both from Oxford University.