







## OBE for PASMA's

## **Peter Bennett**

PASMA managing director, Peter Bennett, 59, has been awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the New Year's Honours List for his services to business in the access and work at height sector.

Managing director of PASMA since 2006, Bennet is also chairman of the Access Industry Forum (AIF), a founding trustee and current chairman of the No Falls Foundation charity, and most recently, was instrumental in establishing the All Party Parliamentary Group for Working at Height.

He also serves on a number of national and international standards setting committees, sits on various groups at the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and contributes to the work of the Better Regulation Panel at the UK's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

In 2007 he was appointed executive director of the Ladder association. He has also served as a Council member, Training Committee chairman and president of IPAF, the International Powered Access Federation.

PASMA chairman Gillian Rutter said: "This honour is richly deserved and reflects the huge contribution that Peter has made, not only to the growth and success of PASMA, but



to the development and recognition of the work at height industry in general. He is passionate about height safety as evidenced by the fact that PASMA alone now trains upwards of 75,000 people a year - an increase of 2,500 per cent compared with 1999/2000."

Peter Bennett added: "In accepting this honour I am deeply conscious of the need to acknowledge the unstinting help and support I have received, and continue to receive. from the PASMA secretariat, PASMA members and, of course, my colleagues in the Access Industry Forum and the wider work at height community. I would also like to pay tribute to those individuals who willingly give up their precious time to serve as PASMA officers and committee members to advance the work and

role of the association. This honour is as much for them as it is for me." Born in Glasgow in 1959. Bennett attended the University of Glasgow. He then joined the Glasgow office of national scaffolding company Stephen's & Carter, kicking off a lifelong career in the work at height industry. In 1988 he moved to Turner Access as general manager, leaving in 2004 to establish the PASMA secretariat

He is a founding member, and latterly chairman, of the Access Industry Forum (AIF). Each of the 11 organisations comprising the Forum represents a different sector of the access



industry and fosters and supports codes of good practice, equipment standards, training, education and knowledge. The Forum comprises: ATLAS, BSIF, EPF, FASET, IPAF, IRATA, Ladder Association, NASC, PASMA, SAEMA and WAHSA.

He is also a founding trustee and current chairman of the board of trustees of the No Falls Foundation, the first and only UK charity dedicated exclusively to preventing falls from height and objects falling from height.

The Foundation aims to raise awareness of the risks associated with working at height, to undertake research to better understand the

causes, and, finally, to provide support to those people affected by the life-changing consequences of a fall.

PASMA focus

Finally, since its creation in October 2017, he has been actively involved in the work of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Working at Height. Chaired by Alison Thewliss, member of parliament for Glasgow Central, the group has now completed its first report and produced a set of recommendations intended to reduce the overall number of deaths and injuries resulting from falls from height. The report will be published in February 2019.

## Long service awards

With over 30 years of service to the association and its members between them, three PASMA team members have been recognised for their long standing contribution and dedication to the association. Karen O'Neill, head of training administration and delivery and Suzie

MacFarlane, head of finance, joined PASMA in 2008, while Christine Williamson, head of member services. recruitment and retention was appointed in 2009.



Suzie MacFarlane



Karen O'Neill



Christine Williamson



For more information about the Access Industry Forum (AIF) and the No Falls Foundation charity for working at height, please visit www.accessindustryforum.org.uk and www.nofallsfoundation.org

