

Liane Cockram Personal Statement . 26/9/18

I am an individual BDA member whom after being assessed was confirmed as an adult dyslexic. It has been a revelation to discover the development of learning assistance matched by the openness and articulation of younger people who have used social mediums to express my frustrations, sometimes in an amusing manner, of many years ago. It has helped me to rationalise my understanding and development of a learning style, which would not have been possible without the help of the BDA. I remain passionate that dyslexics should be given the environment and opportunity to discover and realise their full potential; such opportunities were never available to me. I retain the same passion that I held last year when applying for one of the Individual Member Trustee representatives. I have relished the opportunity to contribute to the Dyslexia community as an interim Individual Member Trustee Representative on the BDA Management Board would love to continue in that role to enable the use of my passion and experience as an individual dyslexic. I frequently reflect upon what it means to be dyslexic, both as a student at school and as an adult learner at work place and play. My particular interest is dyslexia in adults at the work place. I remain convinced, as many employment sectors have realised, that dyslexics bring a different perspective to the workplace that improves significantly if they are able to utilise strategies that allow them to express their full potential.

I believe that I have the competence and experience to actively contribute as a Trustee at board meetings. I have had several public sector careers that allowed me to communicate and negotiate effectively with diverse collections of people including at the international level, despite my own challenges. My professional skills have encompassed delivering complex analysis, implementing highly technical processes with specialist training, to include the integration of dyslexics within organisational structures. I particularly enjoy working with others and being part of a team. I have always worked hard to not only ensure the team was effective but that everyone enjoyed doing what they were doing. I continue to look for opportunities to give back to the BDA that has helped me to improve my abilities to achieve success in my studies and career. Additionally, I have been able to ensure those following me get the support they need at the right time. I can bring value to the board; not only my professional skills but experience as both a student and a dyslexic adult having to navigate the modern workplace together with the nuances and fast changes of the modern world. My predilection includes campaigning to enable dyslexic people to achieve their full potential in the work place. I have witnessed in my role as a BDA mentor, too many employers viewing dyslexia as a disease when it actually brings diversity to the work place. In my view dyslexics are advantageously wired differently to achieve better results than the norm. With two public sector careers behind me I know I will be able to discharge my duties and obligations as a trustee both individually and jointly on a Board. I fully support the campaign areas and missions of the BDA; my preference continues to lean towards the campaign area of enabling dyslexic people to achieve their full potential in the workplace; I will strive to move that aspect forward with the utmost vigour and I will continue to fully contribute to board meetings.