Annual Report 2026

(covering the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026)

1. Nima at a glance

Nima is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee (CLG) with its subsidiary, nima Services Limited set up as its commercial arm, which will gift any surplus to Nima Ltd to help fund the organisation. Nima's ultimate vision is to achieve a thriving and sustainable built and natural environment transformed by exploiting purpose-driven data, and much of what nima achieves is through voluntary effort. In May 2025, nima implemented a key strategic change: establishing a nima membership programme. Throughout the year, it has also committed increased resources to manage the Information Management Initiative (IMI). Going forward, it is recognised that nima must significantly increase its income generation to achieve its ambitions on behalf of industry and in the wider public interest, and that these two activities are key to contributing to that increase.

2. An introduction from our chair, Anne Kemp

Nima would not be where it is today without the quite astonishing effort of our volunteers. Whilst an element of programme management, comms and PR, and finance is provided through paid resource, the majority of our activities are provided by volunteers, extending through from the measured and wise advice of our non-exec directors, the hard graft of our vice chairs, and to the passion and energy of our BIM and IM4 groups, our IM Framework editors and guidance team, and beyond. Thank you to the many people who have and continue to contribute their time and energy to nima's endeavours.

3. Our strategy

Our autumn strategy days have become a key date for nima in setting a clear direction to our ambitions. Key themes for 2025 to 2026 were launching our membership scheme and stepping up to manage the Information Management Initiative backed by the Construction Leadership Council and developed over the previous year through extensive consultation and planning. We determined in November 2025 that we should look to offer professional certification for our members considering the feasibility of a pathway to chartership. We also discussed how to make management of the IMI a sustainable proposition, with consideration of what commercial models would work without conflicting with our members' interests – either as individuals or as organisations. Resolving this was a target set for 2026-2027. In particular, we began to look at implementing an organisational membership model (complementing the patronage programme, but enabling more explicit support for the IMI) to boost revenues and reduce reliance on patrons.

4. Governance and Non-Executive Directors

Simon Lewis looked after nima's Governance workstream during 2025-2026. In that period, nima has further developed its policies and procedures, making these available to the vice chairs, who in turn make them available to nima volunteers.

The nima board is comprised of five non-executive directors (NEDs). Anne Kemp acted as Chair of the Non-Executive Board during 2025-2026. The Board meets monthly to provide governance over the executive function of the organisation and to discuss the strategic direction of nima. Strategy, finance, operations, communications and funding are fixed items on the monthly agenda. Simon Lewis provided the monthly minutes during this time period, made available to the NEDs on the nima Teams site. In the past 12 months, nima's push to become a chartered membership body, the continued development of the Information Management Initiative, and charitable status have all been discussed.

The board meeting is attended by observers whose function is to report on specific aspects of nima's operations. All strategic decisions are made by the NEDs alone. The head of governance reports regularly to the nima chair and the NEDs.

5. Annual general meeting: Future plans

At present, nima does not hold an annual general meeting owing to its currently relatively restricted size. In addition, nima operates on a virtual basis with most meetings taking place via Teams. On two occasions per year, however, face-to-face meetings of the NEDs, nima management, nima senior vice chairs and vice chairs are arranged, to allow for a wide-ranging discussion around matters of strategic importance.

It is anticipated that as nima increases in size there will be an opportunity to organise an annual general meeting, either virtually or in person, for nima members and supporters. The timescale for this is not yet known. In the meantime, nima's quarterly forums and the virtual conferences have also offered opportunities for discussion.

6. Equality, diversity and inclusivity

Nima has an equality and diversity policy in place which is available on the nima Teams site. The policy sets out nima's approach to diversity, equality and inclusion. Nima aims to actively promote a culture that values difference and eliminates discrimination in the workplace. At present nima does not have a physical workplace and does not have any employees; however, the core principles and the ethos set out in the policy are applied to nima's current operations.

7. Awards – Outstanding Achievement Award

This year, the nima Outstanding Achievement Award, given to nima volunteers who 'go above and beyond', was given to Sarah Davidson, who has volunteered for nima since the early days of the UK BIM Alliance, making major contributions to the IMI Framework.

Recipients are acknowledged in nima's comms and given £400 Amazon Gift Vouchers. Once nima membership began in June 2025, it was proposed they also be awarded a gold nima membership.

8. Work streams

The key workstreams managed by the Vice Chairs during 2025 to 2026 were as follows:

Individual membership	Mostafa Elashmawy
Volunteers	Dave Peacock
Operations	Sam Hardy (to March 2026); Gordon Mitchell/Stephen Holmes
Stakeholder Engagement	Varun Soni
Education and Upskilling	Paul Woddy
Projects	Emma Hooper
Communications and Events	Paul Wilkinson
Patrons	Rachel Heaton
Governance	Simon Lewis
Programme Management oversight and Finance	Fiona Moore

9. Individual Membership

Nima launched its individual membership programme in May 2025, aiming to become a professional membership organisation and eventually a chartered membership organisation. By 31 March 2026, nima had recruited 268 members, served by a dedicated online membership portal. It had also launched a bulk membership facility, reviewed a student membership option, and was developing an organisational membership offer. After supporting initial expansion of the membership programme, Mostafa Elashmawy stepped down in May 2026 due to work pressures.

10. Volunteers

Volunteers are essential to nima's delivery. We cannot progress without the valuable inputs of skilled people from within the industry. Our need for volunteers is expected to increase as we progress with organisational and individual membership, programme management, the Information Management Initiative (IMI), education and upskilling, patronage, projects, communications and events, operations, and stakeholder engagement.

Volunteers previously did not have a dedicated lead. Dave Peacock has been in this role for the last 12 months managing onboarding, pairing volunteers with nima heads, and being the main point of contact for the welfare of our volunteers throughout their time with nima. We continue to review our approach for volunteers and plan to further improve this over the coming 12 months.

11. Digital Operations

Sam Hardy oversaw operations and IT in 2025-26, before handing over to Gordon Mitchell and Stephen Holmes. Some of the areas covered by operations include:

- Microsoft Teams – maintenance and oversight

- Internet domains
- Nima emails
- CRM
- Websites hosting (wearenima.im, and IMIFramework.org)
- Developing membership portal, payments and discussion boards
- Future support for nima networks.

12. **Stakeholders**

As part of nima's strategy, Varun worked on a strategy for our stakeholder engagement, including mapping and groupings against governance versus IM influence. The strategy identified the need to expand connection with local as well as central government, regulators, private sector clients, asset and facilities managers – and to remember and embrace micros and SMEs.

Towards the end of the year, Dave Peacock began to assist Varun in overseeing nima's networks (previously known as communities), including the BIM4 and IM4 groups, regional groups, Ambassadors, and Affiliates. We are reaching out to these groups to understand their current activity levels, the leadership in place, the planned approach, and how nima can work more closely with the networks in the future.

In March 2026, nima responded to a UK Government consultation about the proposed Single Construction Regulator. The response stressed the need for more consistent digital standards and greater interoperability of information and data across the lifecycle of built assets. It stressed principles contained in the Information Management Initiative (IMI) – including the need to upskill people in information management – and urged adoption of further principles contained in the 2023 *Interoperability Code of Practice for Technology Providers*.

13. Upskilling and education (Paul Woddy)

Intelligent Built Environment: Education Forum (IBE:EF)

In March 2026, the gathering formally known as the **BIM Academic Forum** was reconvened with over 70 people attending an inaugural conference held in Salford Media City, hosted by the University of Salford and sponsored by Autodesk and Trimble. The attendees overwhelmingly agreed that the need for the forum has not diminished and backed plans to reach a much broader audience, inclusive of schools, colleges, and universities, but also the students and graduates as well. If we are going to shake up the system, should we not be asking those that have just stepped out of it, what they wish they had been taught whilst in it?

In addition to understanding what we can do to support educational providers, the forum is also meant to be a conduit, or a hub for conversation, hosting discussions between educators, awarding bodies, accreditation bodies, central government, technology providers, and employers. We will be looking at the broader picture and focusing on the whole learner journey, with the following mission statement:

> *The forum unites schools, colleges, apprenticeship providers, and commercial training providers to advance Information Management education. We foster*

collaboration, open resource sharing, and research that strengthens IM pedagogy – while building clear educational pathways for learners at every stage.

Through localised upskilling networks, we bring opportunity closer to communities. Through our Student Council, we ensure learners help shape the future of the discipline.

Initial research projects launched:

The State of the Nation - an introspective deep dive into the strengths and weaknesses in our educational supply chain, uncovering areas that we can highlight and learn from, as well as where we can help and support.

Encouraging New Talent into the Sector - a perennial problem, but what are the root causes? Is it awareness amongst careers advisors, and parents? Is it simply a marketing issue? Or is it a more fundamental issue of how the education system is structured?

Academic Response to the ISO 19650 Revisions - For the most urgent of our initial projects, a team submitted a combined response to the proposed changes to the standard. They carried the project on and will report back on how the changes impact on the taught curricula. Will it shift how we look at the process from certain perspectives?

Learning Outcomes Framework

Throughout February and March of 2026, various face-to-face and virtual gatherings were held to bring together subject matter experts from across the sector and present the proposed new approach to a Learning Outcomes Framework (LOF). Volunteers from this group will be tasked with creating the proof of concept for this universal curriculum builder. The concept will be to build a master-list of all responsibilities and tasks which make up the IM process for the whole life of the built and natural managed environment. Personas will be defined, and tasks assigned to those personas from the master-list, with a sliding scale of educational requirement, depending on whether the persona needs simple awareness of a topic, is required to contribute, is responsible for delivering a task, or needs operational oversight of a task.

The outcome of this work will ultimately be an online portal that facilitates the building of career pathways and specification for academic and professional training courses. We are proposing a freemium model with basic access to the data provided free of charge, but bespoke access, and the option to create commercial products on top of the data to be provided under licence from nima, hence productising the LOF as an income generator.

The work to create the LOF has been divided into five workstreams:

1. **Standards identification and review** – to explore which standards, protocols, best practice guides and other materials are applicable in identifying tasks and responsibilities for the master-list.
2. **Persona development** – to identify the initial small selection of detailed personas which will be used in the proof of concept.

3. **Storytelling** – to convert the dry, generic language of the standards into plain language stories which will resonate with the audience.
4. **Data science** – exploring how we collate, manage and present the LOF to the public. What does the final product look like?
5. **Delivery model** – this final workstream encompasses two objectives – project management of the other four workstreams and the sustainable, long-term success of the project. This will include getting buy-in from public and private enterprises as well as representative bodies; exploring funding opportunities; building case-studies; opening discussions around commercialisation.

The LOF is fundamental to the education and upskilling strategy for nima, in bridging the gap between academia and the requirements of professional practice, as well as facilitating transparency in course content. It will be a cornerstone of the transition to a chartered entity and the professional competency of membership, but it also recognises the need to advise those outside of our core membership. We intend for nima to be the hub of IM-related learning, whether that is for full-time IM professionals or those that simply need to understand what they need to know about IM to do their job.

IMI Foundations

We have created a draft introductory training video and slide deck which is intended to be distributed to signatories of the IMI, to help raise awareness internally. The material will be made available through the IMI portal and organisations encouraged to use in the original form, or to adapt it to create more tailored training resources. The video will be provided with a professional VO and available in various formats for hosting on company LMS's.

Professional framework and competency for chartered membership

With the long-term goal of nima achieving chartered status, we have been looking at how to transition from the paid membership model we currently have, to a tiered model which recognises knowledge and experience in the sector. In line with other professional institutions, we are considering the following:

- **Student Membership** for those individuals undertaking approved education or training
- **Associate Membership** for those who meet the minimum qualification requirements but lack required experience
- **Full Membership** for the rank-and-file who have both the qualification and experience requirements
- A **nima Fellow** is a member who demonstrates exceptional contribution to the profession
- An **Honorary Member** is a distinguished individual who is elected for exceptional service, regardless of their qualifications and experience

This requires a comprehensive professional framework which incorporates minimum entry standards around qualifications, experience and character checks, a CPD programme, and a public register of members with disciplinary mechanisms. Competency assessment will evaluate technical capability in information management

but will also look at aspects of leadership and management, professional practice and ethics, as well as business and strategic acumen. These factors will be evaluated against five levels of proficiency, from basic awareness of the concepts and principles, through to recognition as an authority on a subject, setting standards and driving innovation.

The Learning Outcomes Framework mentioned above is key to defining the competency requirements of the professional framework.

14. Projects (Emma Hooper)

Nima projects and the Information Management Initiative (IMI) now provide a practical route for developing different aspects of the IMI. There are now two types of IMI project: organisational and technical. Both are intended to be inclusive of any organisation across the built environment and any part of the asset lifecycle.

Organisational projects support the core implementation of the IMI by helping organisations adopt information management, assess maturity, set targets, create roadmaps and develop business cases. Project O3 provides the supporting methodology. These projects also connect with the Learning Outcomes Framework within the upskilling and education stream. The organisational projects are:

- O1 – IMI Briefing – Paul Woddy
- O2 – Maturity and Benefits Framework – Gordon Mitchell
- O3 – Mandate/Policy Methodology – Shahida Rajabdeen and Andy Boutle

Technical projects come together to form a Standard Information Approach based on the principles of PAS 1958, which are inclusive of personas and lifecycle stages. Eight projects have been identified:

- T1 – Purpose Methodology
- T2 – Modular use cases (this includes Project IIRIS led by Bola Abisogun and Stuart Bell, which has created a set of insurance information requirements)
- T3 – Information Requirements Library
- T4 – Taxonomy Builder
- T5 – ModelSync L10
- T6 – Schema Alignment
- T7 – Technology Code of Practice
- T8 – Manufacturers' Information Collaboration

These projects align with the work of buildingSMART UK&I and contribute significantly to interoperability, helping to ensure that all areas of nima work towards a shared goal. The Asset Operations Handover project is a key component of project T2.

Across these projects, we have also built several collaborations and opportunities to join the dots. These include:

- Collaboration with the Manufacturers Information Hub, particularly around project T4
- Collaboration with the ADS Alliance around project T4.

- Collaboration with organisations that manage industry schemas, such as OSCRE, to contribute to project T6.
- Collaboration with other industry organisations, such as the Data Sharing Working Group.
- Collaboration with UCL through its CBEDS initiative.

The aim is to solve things once, solve them well, and make sure they connect and fit into a bigger picture.

In addition, Project Indigo sits outside the IMI. It is an R&D project that starts from a blank sheet and asks how we might approach information if we were beginning again. Its focus is the use of higher order logic and semantic ontologies, not only to connect information, but also to support inference and reasoning in ways that are not yet widely used across the built environment.

Throughout the year, we have engaged with individuals, working groups and initiatives to support coordination and collaboration. The time and expertise contributed by volunteers has been remarkable. While the built environment is often criticised, its ability to collaborate across organisations remains one of its real strengths.

15. **Patrons (Rachel Heaton)**

Nima's Patron Programme remained strong throughout 2025–2026, maintaining support from existing patron organisations while welcoming new patrons including Womble Bond Dickinson, IMBE and Global eTraining, helping to broaden the reach and diversity of the nima community.

Patron funding continued to provide an important source of support for nima's activities, community engagement and the Information Management Initiative (IMI). During the year, nima strengthened relationships with existing patrons, progressed renewals across key accounts, enhanced its patron proposition and hosted successful patron engagement events including the Digital Construction Week patrons' lunch. The continued support of both new and existing patrons demonstrates industry confidence in nima's mission and its growing influence across the built and managed environment.

Nima also continued to evolve its patronage and organisational engagement model, developing enhanced value propositions and exploring future membership structures to support long-term growth. This work included the development of new patron materials, engagement packages and organisational membership pathways designed to align more closely with the needs of industry stakeholders and supporters.

The Patron Programme continues to play a critical role in sustaining nima's activities, supporting collaboration across industry, and enabling the organisation to inspire, influence, connect and support the information management community. The continued commitment of existing patrons, alongside the addition of new supporters during 2025–2026, provides a strong platform for future growth and impact.

16. Publications and communications (Paul Wilkinson)

Nima's primary direct communication channels are the nima websites: wearenima.im and IMIFramework.org (formerly ukbimframework.org), social media (primarily LinkedIn but YouTube use was expanded in 2025-26) and targeted emails. It also undertakes media relations activities resulting in coverage in industry publications and websites.

During the year to March 2026, the main nima website had 39,617 user visits (up 14% on the previous year) with 91,670 page views (up 6%). The IMI Framework website had 25,550 user visits (up 34%). The Framework guidance has been hosted on the Morta platform since June 2024, and in the year to March 2026 accumulated 209,335 views.

Nima's LinkedIn community grew from 10,289 to 11,074 (up 7.6%) in the year to March 2026. During 2025-26, nima refreshed its YouTube channel and started to post more frequent new content.

Nima has published a regular monthly e-newsletter since December 2024. Sent to around 4,600 opted-in recipients, the newsletters have generated above industry average open and clickthrough rates (26% and 3.9% respectively) and boosted nima website traffic (10% of wearenima.im user visits in 2025-26 were email-driven).

17. Events

During the year to 31 March 2026, nima organised a virtual one-day conference (in November 2025) – drawing over 500 registrations. Nima also had a significant presence at Digital Construction Week in June 2025, exhibited at Digital Construction North and LondonBuild in November 2025, and provided speakers for other events including FutureBuild and the London and Birmingham editions of UK Construction Week.

Nima sponsored the Digital Team of the Year category in the Digital Construction Awards (presented to Heathrow Airport on 18 March 2026), generating considerable PR content as a result.

Nima has also continued to hold quarterly online forums, typically drawing over 100 attendees.

18. **Personnel**

Nima is run largely by volunteers, but during 2025-26 some finance, events, communications, and programme management services were contracted out. This avoided the organisation taking on employer responsibilities. However, there have been discussions about how much longer it can be run on this basis, and this will be discussed in future strategy meetings and fed to the NEDs for future organisational planning.

19. **Finances**

Following nima's rebrand and transition to an independent company, we experienced a temporary decline in patronage in 2024-5 which reduced short term revenue, but recovered and stabilised in 2025-6. During this time, we invested in management and marketing to launch a membership scheme and build our supporter base. This included

paid-for resource for PR/events, finance, and programme management. 268 individual members joined up to 31 March 2026.

20. Risks, continuity and succession

A comprehensive risks register was developed during 2025-26, done to a granularity of sixty or more, which included financial, staffing continuity and succession, brand recognition and under-performance. The Non-Executive Board challenged that the risk register needed to be more targeted, and a review was initiated at the start of the new financial year.

21. Nima Services Ltd

Longer term, Nima Services Ltd is envisaged as the commercial arm of the overall Nima Ltd not-for-profit organisation – allowing Nima Services to take on commercial projects and gift any surplus to Nima Ltd to help fund the organisation. These projects could relate to the IM Initiative or bSUKI, for example, but on the basis that they would not compete with private industry, and any output would be democratised and made available to industry.

22. buildingSMART UK & Ireland Chapter

The UK & Ireland Chapter of buildingSMART continued to thrive under the chairmanship of Casey Rutland, and Vice Chairs Emma Hooper and Nick Nisbet. The committee expanded to mirror the domains at international level, and work was instigated to align with BIM and IM4 groups to encourage better adoption of open standards and IFC. Monthly meetings of the committee ensured continued momentum of engagement with the home market, whilst with dedicated monthly domain community calls reaching back into the international community. The chapter was strongly represented at International level, despite financial pressures for travel for face-to-face meetings needing to be restricted. By the end of this time period it was accepted that better coordination was required between the chapter and nima management, and bi-weekly meetings between the chairs of bSUKI and nima with the Honorary Treasurer were instigated. The chair of bSUKI is also invited to attend Non-Executive Board meetings as an observer with the aim to better integrate the ambitions of buildingSMART with those of nima. Casey has been very active as chair of the Nominations Committee responsible for providing recommendations for the buildingSMART International board election and Nick Nisbet has been voted on the Standards Committee Executive (SCE). Alex Plenty was selected as the project manager of the Asset Operation Handover (AOH) project which is rethinking the approach to COBie which also relates back to IMI project T2.

23. **The GIIG**

The GIIG continues to meet and discuss topics such as data quality, ownership, relevant understanding of artificial intelligence relevant to IM, among other things, with the aim of helping to inform wider nima internal education, policies, guidance and thought leadership. Operating as nima's think tank, how the group is constituted and managed is currently under review, with industry thought leadership pieces and white papers continuing to be the key outputs.