

Launch – L3 Junior Energy Manager Apprenticeship

House of Lords, Committee Room G (30/01/2020 2.30pm – 5pm)

Background

We were thrilled to be able to launch our **Energy Manager Apprenticeship** at the House of Lords on Thursday 30th January 2020. The event was in partnership with nBS (Dave Horton as Lead), EMA (Lord Rupert Redesdale as Lead) and Group Horizon (Alison Washbourne as Lead). The event took place in Committee Room G, which has its entrance off ‘Black Rod’ to the House of Lords, a route which The Queen herself follows on coming through the main gates off St Margaret Street. The invites included Members of Parliament, Trade Press, Learners and Employers, and we were fortunate that the majority did make it. We were also graced with Emma Hardy MP (Shadow FE and HE minister), who followed Lord Redesdale’s opening remarks.

The Event

Lord Redesdale opened the event by thanking everyone in attendance and explaining the importance of Energy Management, both within the government agenda, and beyond. Emma Hardy MP then spoke on Education and the routes of learning, stressing her pleasure that the Junior Energy Manager Apprenticeship was at Level 3, allowing entry to be based on ability rather than academic achievements. Learning ‘on the job’ and putting into ‘practice’ were key points Emma made. Emma was also very interested to learn of Group Horizon’s links to Welfare to Work, including the development of Level 1 and Level 2 routes into the variety of sectors we work in.

Peter Behan, Chair and Owner of Group Horizon, then provided the background to GH and the journey from inception to where we are now. Peter outlined the numerous Energy related projects we have been, and continue to be involved in (including Battery Storage, Renewable Energy Technologies, Smart Meter Installation, and many more) and provided more in-depth details about the Junior Energy Manager programme and its structure.

Peter also explained the new developments GH have introduced and continue to develop around E-Learning and Virtual Classrooms. These changes have not only introduced new ways of learning, but also important changes to the way we work moving forward. It was a great opportunity to sing our praises of our recent Ofsted visit and grade, (Grade 2 across the board) and we shared learner feedback from people on programme, one of which (Liam Doughty from Gateshead Council) was in the audience.

GH style of delivery was outlined and explained by Peter, showing True Partnership Model at the heart of all we do, including dedicated Account Management, Clear Communication Channels, Regular Updates and wherever possible ‘a seat at the table’.

Peter finished his session by outlining the Future for GH... to continue and build on our good work to date in partnership with those in the room. The updated policy changes to SME and Levy access will be a game changer for employers and expected to be rolled out before March 2020. Teamwork and Partnership will strengthen with a dedicating focus on growing a network of highly motivated Energy Management champions.

The presentations were great as they set the scene for our guests, but the networking and discussions that took place after were vital and hugely rewarding for all. Lord Redesdale stayed for the full event, giving his valuable time, however won major kudos by taking the JEM learner on a whistle stop tour of the House of Lords, which was amazing and something that won't be forgotten. Please do get in touch if I can support any questions on the Junior Energy Manager Apprenticeship programme.

Alison Washbourne, Director – Group Horizon Ltd – February, 2020



Alison Washbourne (GHL); Emma Hardy MP; Peter Behan (GHL)



The Chamber of The House of Lords. Photo Credit: UK Parliament



The Palace of Westminster at night. Photo Credit: Diliff

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