



Minister approves KBB apprenticeship development

The British Institute of Kitchen, Bedroom & Bathroom Installation [BiKBBI] is delighted to confirm that the Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills, The Rt.Hon.Robert Halfon MP (pictured), has granted government approval for the development of a new Trailblazer Apprenticeship for Fitted Interiors.

The new style Trailblazer Apprenticeship Standard will cover the three key areas of kitchen, bedroom and bathroom installation, namely the skills, knowledge and behaviors required for those embarking on a career within the industry.

Progression from this Apprenticeship could lead to supervisory or management roles over time, providing clear and achievable career progression pathways for newcomers. The standard will be designed to deliver sufficient competence, underpinning knowledge and understanding in the identified job role in order to allow individuals to meet the requirements of the industry they will represent.

Speaking on behalf of BiKBBI, CEO Damian Walters said: "I can confirm that I will be meeting with our own Educational Taskforce next week, in preparation for a meeting with representatives from the Department for Education, various interested employers and organisations and the Construction Industry Training Board [CITB] on the 1st March. The objective of both meetings is to ensure that our area of the industry is fully represented in the development of this exciting new Apprenticeship."

A CITB spokesperson also commented by saying: this is a real chance to develop an apprenticeship that fully meets the needs of the sector. It is important that employers become involved and take advantage of the transformation taking place with apprenticeships that include the introduction of the apprenticeship levy and direct funding to employers by Government to help pay training providers for their apprenticeship training and assessment.

BiKBBI confirmed that its own Education Taskforce is made up from representatives from several national retailers including its own Installation Standards Partners B&Q, Bathstore, John Lewis and Omega, as well as Homebase, Wickes and Wren. Additionally the group has representation from The Furniture Makers Company, Trading Standards and a number of its micro SME installer members.

BiKBBI have committed to updating the industry on the progress of the Apprenticeship development and welcomes input from other retailer and installation businesses wishing to get involved. Interested parties should contact Nicole Mercer (nicole.mercer@bikbbi.org.uk / 01375 659 524) in the first instance.

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NOTE TO THE EDITOR:

The British Institute of Kitchen, Bedroom & Bathroom Installation (BiKBBi) represents over 4,600 installation businesses across the UK, as well as a number of KBB retailers, manufacturers and distributors of KBB product. The organisation launched in 2006, is Secretary of State Sanctioned and not-for-profit registered, registered in England & Wales (06533488). BiKBBi is responsible for education, standards and the support of business that operate within the KBB installation sector, whilst supporting consumers with free guidance and access to business that have been independently accredited. See: www.bikbbi.org.uk for further information.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

This press release was issued on behalf of The British Institute of Kitchen, Bedroom & Bathroom Installation Limited, by Publicity Engineers, 13 Limes Court, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, EN11 8EP. Further information can be obtained from Rob Nicholls (rob@publicityengineers.com) or 01992 478 109.