

THE POWER TO DIVERSIFY THE INDUSTRY



CASE STUDY – CATHLEEN COCKIN

Cathleen Cockin runs her own business *Little Miss Electrical* in Huddersfield.

She trained to become an electrician while working in an office as a legal executive. She has since switched to working in the trades full-time and hasn't looked back. Earlier this year, she got in touch with NICEIC asking for an extra helping hand in her career.

“ I got into property development with my partner. He suggested that I train as an electrician so that I could re-wire our properties. I really enjoyed it, I loved being out on site and it certainly beats being stuck in an office all day.

I qualified as a domestic electrician, but I wanted to be able to offer Electrical Installation Condition reports (EICRs) to landlords and estate agents. At the time I did not have the right qualifications.

I got in touch with NICEIC as I was aware of its campaign to support women in the industry. It was a bit of a cheeky request, but they were only too willing to help. I couldn't quite believe it when they offered to put me on their Inspection & Testing Course.

I can now confidently complete the report and offer a wider range of services.

Females in the electrical industry

With the electrical industry being such a male dominated industry, I was nervous about going into it. I thought I wouldn't fit in because I'm a girl. My husband, who's a plasterer, even made a few comments about girls being on site.

I've never been one to let other people's opinions stop me doing what I want, so I just cracked on with it. I got the total opposite response. Yes, there were a few narrow minded comments here and there, but the majority of people on the course said how refreshing it was to see a girl for a change.

I've got so much positive feedback and support from everyone. Customers, wholesalers, training centres, friends and family are all so kind and supportive; it makes such a big difference knowing that people are behind me in what I do. They really want me to do well.



What I love about this industry is that there is always an opportunity to learn new skills. I get such a buzz on working on a job, powering it up and having it actually work.

Working as a Legal Executive didn't offer that much in terms of excitement and thrill. Handing over the keys to a new property wasn't as exciting as re-wiring a house, or even powering up an outdoor light.

Now that I am qualified to complete EICRs, my next plan is to get my head around data cabling, smart home systems and alarms. After that, I'd like to take on a few more apprentices.

I've just taken on a young girl which is great and has really helped me out.

Eventually, I'd like to have a couple more female electricians and have a few 'Little Miss Electrical' vans buzzing around the area. I've been able to bring in enough work to need more staff so it would be great to create more jobs - especially for the girls.”