



PRESS RELEASE
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**‘Mumpreneurs’ can now enjoy the best of both worlds says leading
homeworking company**

As Mother’s Day approaches more mums are enjoying quality time with their families whilst pursuing successful careers as they take advantage of the flexibility of working from home, says the world’s largest home-based travel company Travel Counsellors.

Of the company’s 1,000 plus travel agents, who all run their own travel franchises from home throughout the UK and overseas, 70% are women and over three quarters have children. When asked the main reasons why they left their previous job and joined the company 31% said it was because of the convenience of working from home and 26% stated it was because they wanted to spend more time with their family.

Travel Counsellors Managing Director Steve Byrne comments; “We are seeing more and more women who want to take control of their own destinies and enjoy successful careers whilst benefiting from the flexibility that comes with running their own businesses from home, enabling them to work the hours that suit them and their families.”

He adds; “With the rising cost of childcare and the stresses of having to commute every day, working from home is becoming a much more attractive option in the current economic climate. Plus as our agents run their own businesses from home they do not have to shell out on the overheads of running separate working premises.”

Travel Counsellors has always recognised the importance of a flexible working structure and now offers people with a passion for travel the opportunity to run their own travel business from home via a unique franchise opportunity, the Travel Counsellors Travel Academy.

This includes people like mother of two Carolyn McNally. Thirty-seven year old Carolyn previously worked for 13 years for Merseyside Police. Although her job was very rewarding it was also emotionally draining and meant Carolyn working long and unsociable hours away from her son Christopher, 12, and daughter Laura, 10.

“I felt that I needed a complete change,” says Carolyn. “I have always loved travel and wanted to pursue a career in this field whilst spending more quality time with my family. I also wanted to run my own business, so when I came across the Travel Academy I knew this was the opportunity I had been looking for.”

Travel Counsellors launched the Travel Academy to enable customer focused professionals with a passion for travel but with no previous experience in the industry to take part in a year long, intensive travel training programme which allows them to run their own travel business from home, supported by over 200 staff at the company’s head office in Bolton.

“Being able to manage my own hours has benefited my whole family. As my husband works away it was always a struggle for me to arrange work around school hours, but now I can work around my children and spend that quality time with them that I know I would miss if I had embarked on a career away from home. The children are so happy having me around more and I feel so much more rewarded in all aspects of my life.”

For more information about the Travel Academy call 0800 195 7024 or visit www.tctravelacademy.co.uk.

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**CASE STUDIES:**

Travel Counsellors has access to a wide range of case studies. Please contact us to arrange.

About Travel Counsellors: Travel Counsellors PLC is one of the UK's largest independent travel companies with turnover at the end of its last financial year (Oct 31 2008) of £245 million, a 16% increase year on year. Founded in 1994 it currently has over 1,000 travel consultants who work from home with the support of over 200 staff at the company's head office in Bolton. The company operates in the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, South Africa, Australia, Canada and the US. In the UK Travel Counsellors places all customer money in a Trust account which guarantees a 100% refund in the event that a supplier collapses. Travel Counsellors was the winner of the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise in 2003-2008, the technology category of the 2005 CBI Growing Business Awards and was voted Travel Agent of the Year by readers of the Guardian, Observer and Guardian Unlimited in 2006 & 2007.

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