



PRESS RELEASE
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'WORKING FROM HOME CHANGED MY LIFE'

Travel Counsellors encourages more people to seize the opportunity to work from home as part of 'National Work from Home Day'

Award winning travel company Travel Counsellors is celebrating 'National Work from Home Day' on Thursday 15 May.

The company, which now has over 900 home-based travel consultants worldwide, including over 700 in the UK and Ireland, says that more professionals should seize the opportunity to work from home – pointing out that 87% of Travel Counsellors say their work/ life balance has improved since joining the company.

Employers and staff from around the country are being encouraged to work from home on this day so that everyone can experience the benefits. 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 The Travel Academy. Whereas previously it was only possible for those with extensive travel industry experience to join Travel Counsellors, the company now offers a year long, intensive travel training programme which ultimately allows them to run their own travel business from home, supported by over 200 staff at the company's head office in Bolton.

Flintshire based Carolyn McNally joined the Travel Academy last year, having previously worked for 13 years for Merseyside Police, so that she could find a better balance between her work and family life; "I wanted to be able to do something I enjoy and also be available to take the children to school every day and not have to miss out on important events like sports days and school plays."

"Working from home means I am now able to manage my own hours, which has benefited the whole family. My husband works away so this was always a struggle for me to arrange work around school hours. The children are happy having me around more and I am building a business working in an industry I love. I really feel I have achieved the perfect work /life balance working from home."

Stuart Woodford from East Sussex agrees. He joined the Travel Academy eight months ago after 20 years spent in commercial radio. When his father died of cancer last year he decided it was time to make a change, so he quit his job, sold his house, and went on an incredible journey around the world. It was this journey that made him realise just how passionate he was about travel and he saw the Travel Academy as the perfect opportunity to build his own travel business from home.

"I am so much happier now," says Stuart. "I am doing a job I love whilst enjoying the freedom and flexibility of working from home. I can provide a unique service to my customers because I am available outside of normal working hours, which also gives me the opportunity to spend quality time with my family, plus I don't have to commute to work everyday."

Travel Counsellors has been voted Travel Agent of the Year by readers of the Guardian, Observer and Guardian Unlimited for the past two successive years. The company is celebrating 'National Work from Home Day' on Thursday 15th May and encourages people to discover the advantages of working from home, as Carolyn and Stuart have.



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 and photos to illustrate National Work from Home Day. 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 2007) of £212 million, a 21% increase year on year. Founded in 1994 it currently has over 900 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, Germany, South Africa, Australia 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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