

# Tara's Training Success

## The Benefits of Learning with the ASCP



If you are an individual working in building and asset compliance, there has never been a better time to invest in your future through training. The implementation of the new Building Safety regime is just around the corner, as is the Social Housing Regulation Bill which will bring increased focus on competence and professionalism across the sector. Training from the experts at the ASCP and CORGI Technical Services is specifically designed to enhance knowledge, boost skills and keep you at the forefront of safety and compliance.



Tara Jones, Compliance Manager at Gloucester City Homes, recently completed her Level 4 Diploma in Asset and Building Management Compliance with the ASCP. We spoke with her about her training success, how this has benefited her in her

day-to-day role and her advice for others looking to develop their own careers.

### Tara's training journey

Originally from South Africa, Tara has lived and worked in the UK for nine years now. In 2014 she began working as a contractor for Gloucester City Homes, quickly working her way up the ladder to become Compliance Manager in 2020.

"The first course I did with the ASCP was the Level 2 VRQ Award in Asset and Building Compliance Awareness," says Tara, "I already had experience with gas and asbestos from my work with the scheduling and repairs teams, but this course was useful to give me a good baseline understanding across all of the 'big six' compliance areas."

Tara then moved on to the Level 4 Qualification, equivalent to an HNC or the first year of a degree course. This was a bigger commitment for Tara in terms of the time and work required, but she was ready for more.

“I wanted to understand what more I could be doing,” she explains, “and the course really did stretch me, I realised I didn't know half of what I thought I knew. It was challenging, but in a really good way.”



## How has the qualification helped Tara?

For Tara, a key benefit of the qualification has been increased knowledge. "The learning I have done helps me to make informed decisions," she says. As an example, she was able to put improved processes into place around legionella.

This increased understanding has also helped her to better understand the roles of other colleagues and teams within the organisation, and led to more productive conversations.

“We can support each other so much better,” she explains, “I know what I need from them and people also feel they have someone they can approach who has that up to date knowledge.”

With increased knowledge comes more confidence too. "I am able to challenge, question and query more," says Tara. This was the case recently whilst GCH was going through a lift refurbishment. "As it happens I was working on my lifts assignment at the same time," she explains,

“It gave me all the ammunition I needed to ask the right questions of contractors because I knew exactly what the legislation said and what documentation was required. I now have the confidence to challenge both externally and internally where required.”

## Tara's advice on studying whilst working

It may seem a daunting prospect to balance additional study on top of an already challenging workload. Having support from your employers definitely helps, and many will provide this as they recognise the benefits it has for the organisation as a whole. "I was lucky enough to have an organisation who could give me one day a week to focus on my qualification," says Tara, "but my advice to others is to be protective of your study time and set clear boundaries about people contacting you."

She also stresses that a little self-compassion is key! "Don't be too hard on yourself," she says, "take the time you need and recognise that there will be setbacks but you will get there if you stay focused."

## Would Tara recommend studying with the ASCP?

When asked whether she would recommend studying with the ASCP, Tara's response is an enthusiastic yes, as she outlines below:

“The support I had from the assessors was incredible, whether it be answering questions, sending extra information or just providing the encouragement I needed to give me a push where needed. They really kept me going. I felt like the whole team was on my side, and the feedback I received for assignments was always just what I needed to help me reach that end goal. It all felt so worth it getting that email to say I'd done it, I nearly cried!”

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