



**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**  
70 WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AS

From the Deputy Prime Minister

4 February 2015

Kris Mercer  
WEC Group Ltd  
Britannia House  
Junction Street  
Darwen  
Lancashire  
BB3 2RB

**The City & Guilds Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers and National Apprenticeship Awards**

Congratulations to you and your team on securing a place in the 2014 list of City & Guilds Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers. This is a fantastic achievement and follows your success at the National Apprenticeship Awards.

It's dedicated and innovative companies like yours that are helping Britain secure its recovery and build a stronger, more balanced economy in the years ahead.

You recognise the positive difference a high-quality apprenticeship can make to your business and to the future of bright, talented young people looking to earn while they learn: driving growth, creating jobs and boosting your bottom line.

Thanks to employers like you – who give apprentices the start they need to develop a successful, long-term career – we have been able to announce our two millionth apprentice starting their placement since 2010.

But we want to go even further, ensuring more businesses understand and gain from the huge business benefits hiring an apprentice brings. Every week, on average, a fully trained apprentice increases business productivity by £214.

It's the example and experiences of employers like you that are helping us to get that message out there. You really are leading the way: showing that, when you invest in an apprentice, you invest in the prosperity of your business and local community.

So, please keep up this great work – inspiring others to do what you've done. I wish you every success for the future and hope to see you recognised again at the National Apprenticeship Awards and as a top apprenticeship employer.

Thank you for your continued commitment to helping our apprentices and Britain thrive.

Best wishes

**Deputy Prime Minister**