

Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance (HABC)

Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance (HABC) is a family-run business, operating on the core values of quality, value, service and integrity and is the United Kingdom and Middle East's leading supplier of compliance qualifications and apprenticeships. The vision of HABC is to set the global standard for listening and responding.

Highfield ABC currently offers over two hundred (200) qualifications. HABC is regulated by Ofqual, the Welsh Government, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Accreditation and the Security Industry Authority (SIA). HABC, is known as the 'Awarding Body that listens' and they continually work on improvements, thus ensuring clients of the highest possible service standards.

Highfield began in 1982 when food safety expert Richard Sprenger wrote 'Hygiene for Management' and the 'Food Hygiene Handbook'. Both books are now the world's leading publication at their respective levels. These books were so popular with food safety trainers that Richard and wife Jayne, decided to form a company to supply food safety training materials. This was the birth of Highfield.

Richard continued his local UK council job as Assistant Director of Environmental Health to help finance the start-up business, continuing to write Highfield training materials in his spare time. Jayne managed the business, taking orders in the morning, packing in the afternoon, carrying out sales, marketing in the evening. Weekends were for administration and finance. All the while they raised their three children – Jason, Christian and Rebecca.

In the 1990s, the company made the decision to expand into other compliance areas and started to reinvest profits into development. Following this philosophy, Highfield's research and development team is proportionally larger than most competitors. In 1995, the company launched a health and safety range, followed in later years by fire, first aid, licensing and security.

In 1999, Richard left his role as Director of Environmental Services to become Chairman of Highfield. Jayne took over the role of Customer Services Director.

2000 was a landmark year for Highfield, becoming a 'one-stop-shop' for corporate customers. Highfield secured its first contract with UK retail giant Marks and Spencer and that relationship has continued to grow and devolve today. Highfield has since built relationships with many other corporate clients including McDonalds to whom they provide innovative customized package for some 15,000 managers.

Today, there are eight family members in the business. Highfield's growth remained strong during the United Kingdom recession, increasing dramatically with the launch of Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance (HABC). In 2007, Jason Sprenger (current Chief Executive Officer) left his position as a senior solicitor with international law firm Eversheds to drive

the HABC application forward with regulatory body Ofqual. In 2008 HABC achieved Awarding Organization status.

Since then, HABC has enjoyed exceptional growth and is in the top 10 Awarding Organizations in the United Kingdom. HABC is also a market leader in security, first aid and management level food safety.

In 2010, Highfield opened an office in the United Arab Emirate (UAE) in Healthcare City – the heart of Dubai - managed by Richard. Highfield now has several contracts in the UAE including Civil Defense, Dubai Municipality, Dubai Corporation for Ambulance Services (DCAS), King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) and other world leading corporate companies and training centres.

In 2011, HABC entered the apprenticeship market offers an excellent portfolio of qualifications.

Highfield has come a long way since operating as a two person operation, from a desk in their living room. However, they have never forgotten their roots and are fully aware that they exist to service their valued customer base.

Highfield has always been a strong supporter and proponent of environmental health given Richard Sprenger's deep roots in environmental health. During a recent reconnection with Honorary Vice President Robert Bradbury via LinkedIn, an undertaking was given by Highfield ABC to further support environmental health within the IFEH community through the sponsorship of the Roy Emerson Award.

The International Federation of Environmental Health would like to thank and recognize Richard Sprenger and the Board of Directors at Highfield ABC for their commitment and dedication to global environmental health through their help in supporting environmental health student members through the sponsorship of the Roy Emerson Award, and thus helping to foster a greater understanding of global environmental health issues and concerns.

For further information on Highfield please see below:

www.highfield.co.uk

www.highfieldabc.com

www.highfieldabc.ae

