

Meet the team

Jennifer Begley-Collins



UKHSE
TRAINING & CONSULTANCY
PART OF THE OUTSET GROUP

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What do you do at UKHSE and how do you support our clients?

As a Health and Safety Consultant I help Clients comply with a whole raft of legislation. Especially, in the current pandemic, with COVID-19 guidelines and risk assessments. My role itself is quite fluid depending on the needs of the Client: one day I'm in London doing a fire risk assessment and the next I may be in Belfast doing an asbestos survey. My aim is to guide Clients into compliance using a common sense approach, in line with various laws, regulations and guidance and to produce reports that are readable and understandable.

Give us a brief timeline of your career so far

I actually studied Forensic Science at university but, on graduation, found I couldn't get a job (too few jobs, too many applicants). So, with the urgent need to pay rent or move back to my parents' home, I took a job within the asbestos industry. I started within the asbestos removal department, quickly followed by becoming a surveyor and over a few more years, into asbestos management and teaching. I realised I enjoyed the health and safety aspect and so made a decision to gain health and safety qualifications in my own time. I made the leap into full time health and safety in 2007 and over the years expanded my skillset.



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What has been your biggest challenge in your role?

Walking the tightrope between what the law says and what the Client wants. Sometimes finding a solution that satisfies both sides is a challenge.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The flexibility and the variety I have – it is definitely not the same each week.

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What do you think sets Outset apart?

Outset has an amazing level of talent within its company and the level of expertise offered to Clients is phenomenal.

When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be an adventurer – the Indiana Jones type – exotic countries and vast treasure.

What do you wish someone had told you when you started out? Or what piece of advice were you given early on that has stuck with you?

My grandad's mantra was "it is better to have it and not need it, than to need it and not have it." This fits nicely into health and safety! My grandad also used to say that "good shoes were worth paying good money for". He meant work boots but now I've expanded it to include all types of shoes (to my husband's constant horror).



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What do you enjoy doing when you are not working?

I enjoy writing fiction when I am not spending time with my family.

Who inspires you most and why?

My Nan. Firstly for putting up with my grandad but mostly because she is a go-getter who takes no nonsense from no-one. She never let society (or her family) force her into stereotypical roles or dictate what she could and couldn't do. I think she is a pretty good role model to have.



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What piece of advice would you give someone in business?

My piece of advice would be to look after your own wellbeing. If you are run ragged, overwhelmed or feeling lost then you aren't going to be productive and your work will suffer. So take time out. Do something enjoyable. Take time for yourself as it will actually improve your productivity later on.

And finally... What is one thing you've learnt during lockdown?

There are only 12 suitable hide-and-seek hiding places for an adult in my house. There are quite a few more for a two year old!



Jennifer Begley-Collins
Health & Safety Consultant

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Scan the QR code below to save Jennifer's contact details

