

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Seeing double safely!



Photographs of awards available after May 23rd

Commitment to health and safety at work has won New Charter two coveted Silver awards from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

Both our Building Company and our main housing operation attracted the second highest accolade.

RoSPA is one of the world's leading health and safety organisations. To win this award, we had to show a first-class safety management system, and evidence of a consistently good or continuously improving accident injury performance. New Charter had a year-on-year accident reduction of over 22%.

The RoSPA awards are not just about reducing the number of accidents and cases of ill-health at work; they help ensure organisations have good health and safety management systems in place. Entering the awards reinforces the message that good health and safety is good business, and clearly shows an organisation's commitment to achieve high levels of performance in this crucial area.

New Charter saw managing the risks as essential to our operation when formed in 2000. The judges' eyes were especially attracted to our comprehensive approach which promotes the health and well-being of our 800-strong workforce as well as more traditional measures such as safety workwear and policies.

David Rawlins, RoSPA Awards Manager said: "New Charter has demonstrated how seriously it takes health and safety management and is a fine example to many other companies. We would like to see more organisations following their lead."

New Charter is unusual in directly employing over 300 people in the building construction area, via our own Building Company. Managing Director of New Charter Building Company Andy Stafford said: "We have good policies that our managers put into practice because they see the productive return on performance and customer satisfaction. It's not



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an add-on, but part of our key tasks. Nationally, construction has always been a high risk area, but we prove this can be managed well. We did over £34million worth of building work, but reduced accidents of all sorts to just 40 last year. I believe it gives us an advantage when tendering for other clients' work."

The RoSPA awards are not just about reducing the number of accidents and cases of ill-health at work; they are also about ensuring organisations have good health and safety management systems in place.

Group Director of Organisational Development, Christine Amyes said: "We are happy to put our health and safety record under the microscope of RoSPA, although we constantly monitor our own performance. Our work spans an immense area of potential risk from lone working of staff through manual handling to construction. It's excellent news that our group-wide approach to managing risk has been recognised with the two Silver awards. Good health and safety is good business; for New Charter, it is fundamental to our growing success."

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage homes transferred from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £48million a year and a workforce of 800, New Charter is one of the country's largest Registered Social Landlords, and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog. By incorporating Aksa Housing Association in November 2005, the Group owns 15,000 homes.
2. The RoSPA Occupational Health and Safety awards are sponsored by the leading health and safety professional examining body, NEBOSH (National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health).
3. The silver awards will be presented to New Charter on 23rd May at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel.
4. **iN business for neighbourhoods** is a long-term project highlighting housing associations' performance. As social businesses, housing associations do not make profit. They offer homes for rent and sale at prices local people can afford. Housing associations provide more than homes - they help create places where people want to live. Wherever you see the **iN business for Neighbourhoods** sign, something great is happening in the area. Housing Associations who display this logo are committed to their customers, the neighbourhoods they work in and strive for excellence in everything they do.

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