

PRESS RELEASE

Immediate release

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Gold struck - safely



Photograph of Christine Amyes available

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

RoSPA is one of the world's leading health and safety organisations. To win this award, New Charter had to show a first-class safety management system, and evidence of a consistently good or continuously improving accident injury performance. New Charter has reduced accidents by 49% over the last four years

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

David Rawlins, RoSPA Awards Manager said: "New Charter has shown a commitment to protecting the health and well-being of its employees and others. We hope other businesses and organisations will follow its lead and strive for continuous improvement in health and safety management."

In each of the last two years, New Charter has been presented with the Silver award, but was determined to achieve the highest accolade.



business for neighbourhoods

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 Gold award. Good health and safety is good business; for New Charter, it is fundamental to our growing success."

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter owns and manages almost 15,000 homes for rent, mainly in Tameside, Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £53million a year and a workforce of 800, New Charter is one of the North West's largest Registered Social Landlords, and incorporates Aksa Housing Association.
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 Gold award will be presented to New Charter on 15th May at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel by RoSPA President Baroness Anne Gibson of Market Rasen.
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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