

INDUSTRY QUOTES

“It makes good business sense: we need a skilled construction workforce for the future and there is so much untapped talent in the prison estate.”

Debbie Akehurst
Former Head of Economy and Communities, Landsec

“We’d really encourage other business to consider supporting offender rehabilitation and of course we’d invite them to get in touch with us and we’d be delighted to showcase our work.”

Joanthan Crookall
Former Director, Halfords

“We’re proud to be working with ex-offenders and want to share the benefits to other employers to support more people into employment. Thank you to The Exceptionals for celebrating the work we have done.”

Lisa Crawford
Former Head of HR, HSS Hire

“Our Rising Stars programme is about creating opportunities and recognising the potential in people. Several participants have gone on to secure permanent roles at Pret, demonstrating what can be achieved when people are given the opportunity and support to succeed.”

Tanja Mrnjaus, Employment & Training Manager, The Pret Foundation

“We’re trying to provide meaningful, long-lasting, inspiring careers for people. That’s really the heart of what we’re doing.”

Thea Tomison
Director, Advisory, KPMG

“At COOK, diversity and inclusion is about turning up to work, being part of something and being accepted just as you are. Whoever you are, whatever your past, whatever your background, whatever you believe. Turning up and being welcome.”

Annie Gale, Head of Raw Talent and Apprenticeships Cook