



Tom Duggan

Tom launched a health and safety training firm which he now runs with his family

Tom Duggan, 69, is company founder and managing director of Woodward Safety Health and Environment Limited, based at Energus, Lillyhall.

The health and safety training firm, which also employs his wife Christine and sons James and Tom, is going from strength to strength.

It moved from Carlisle to Energus in December and has recently won a LINC challenge with Sellafield to provide NEBOSH safety training at the nuclear complex.



After gaining a mathematics degree at Manchester University, I worked as a production manager, project planner and industrial engineer for about 20 years.

I then decided to start my own business and launched a training company, initially specialising in management and logistics training in 1990.

While delivering management training at Catterick Resettlement Centre for the Ministry of Defence, I was asked to launch health and safety qualifications throughout the resettlement service at both Catterick and Aldershot. We delivered the first NEBOSH National General Certificate as a resettlement course for service leavers at Catterick Garrison in March 1993, and the first one at Aldershot in November 1994.

It then seemed natural to develop these qualifications for commercial organisations both in Cumbria and nationwide.

I set up the company because I felt I could reach more companies and help more

'Family companies are much more responsive and meet organisations needs much better than large companies,' says Tom

people to stay safe and healthy at work by training individuals to carry the health and safety message with them back to their companies.

We were the first company in Cumbria to deliver NEBOSH and IOSH training courses. Even today, there are very few other companies in Cumbria offering these courses. We continue to be the only NEBOSH National Diploma provider in the county.

It was not initially intended to become a family business, as my eldest son was only 10 years old when I started the company. But now I'm very pleased to have been able to pass over the majority of the day-to-day operations of the company to my two sons. Family companies are much more responsive and meet organisations needs much better than large companies, while also retaining a personal approach.

There are a number of moments that I've been proud of, including

six of our students achieving NEBOSH Top Student Awards since 2007

One of the best parts of the job is getting feedback from learners that they have had an excellent learning experience with us.

This is frequently followed up by them asking us to deliver further training courses for their friends and colleagues.

We are planning for the future all the time and want to continue to provide the high quality training courses which have become our trademark over the years.

We also want to work with new partners to help us to reach more delegates who might not otherwise benefit from training. For example, we have recently set up the Eden Valley Hospice in Carlisle as a courses delivery partner, which will result in them achieving much-needed extra funding for their facilities and services in addition to IOSH accredited training for their own staff.