

Our latest news



[Gareth Tomkins' 6 month Company Update](#)

Although the first half of the year has again been challenging, I am pleased to say we have had a better start to the year than we did in 2024. The year has been sluggish, but as we move into the summer months we are seeing more encouraging signs and at the half way point we are showing 20% growth on this time last year, which in the current climate we are delighted with.

[Read Gareth's full update](#) - his main highlights include:

- Economic conditions
- How the construction industry is performing
- Linear's Social Value and Purpose
- Umbrella company legislation changes

Captains Club Award Winners

Every year Linear runs a "Captain's Club" recognising and celebrating some of the previous year's achievements, and rewards employees based on billing and compliance performance along with awards for Employees of the Year and Newcomer of the Year.

In previous years we've had many trips to Michelin star restaurants in London, a break in Milan, last year we went to Barcelona and this year we flew over the Irish Sea to Dublin for three nights. And what a blast we had!

Unfortunately not everyone who won an award could make it, but Gareth Tomkins was joined by Saphia Akbani (Top Trades), Joe Poste (Top WC Contract), Jack James (Top Perm) Bethan Parr (Top Administrator), Gareth Arnold representing our Rail | Power | Infrastructure divisions (Top Office Productivity) and Matt Cassady (budget performance).

[Read more](#)

Well done everyone and we're looking forward to next year's trip already.



Client Induction Portal - Candidate Onboarding

Working with our Clients and Candidates to ensure we are fully compliant in our recruitment processes is paramount to us.

We were asked by one of our longstanding clients to improve the candidate onboarding process, while maintaining the client's focus on health and safety in their efforts as an Employer to minimise risks. Our Newcastle Consultant Grant Patterson worked on the project, and his focus was to ensure the onboarding process for candidates was right, efficient and straight-forward, and make sure all the correct procedures were followed and that candidates are fully compliant when they're inducted.

We created a [bespoke compliant online onboarding portal](#) for our candidates to complete their induction before commencing their placements with the client. This involves watching a mandatory video and then answering a series of questions, hosted within Linear's website.

The outcomes? It's been beneficial to all parties. For our client, it's meant their candidates they take on are fully compliant and can be assured they've completed the mandatory induction stage and have trackable evidence they can use; in addition, it has increased candidate reliability and saves both time and the expense of holding inductions on site. For the Candidate, it's a user friendly system, we've had 100% completion success and they can complete it at a convenient time for them. For our Consultants, it's allowing them to be more productive and time efficient; inductions with the candidate no longer need to be face to face or online, at awkward times.

How can Linear help you??

If you are a business that requires an onboarding induction or will require one in the future and you would like to streamline the process, please feel free to contact us and we would be happy to provide you with more information and discuss how we could help improve your business.

Contact us for more information

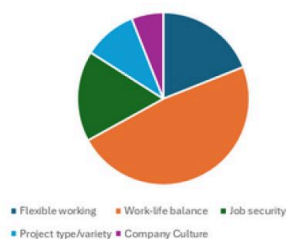
Construction Industry Report

Our latest report on salaries, satisfaction and performance of the UK construction market is available to download (or we can email you a copy)



Insights into how the construction industry is performing

Job Satisfaction Factors



- ✓ Our thoughts on how the National Minimum Wage and Employer insurance increases might affect the industry
- ✓ A gauge on satisfaction levels with current salaries and overall job remuneration packages

[Read More](#)



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Team Updates

Stars of the Quarters

Our Star of the Quarter for Quarter 1 of 2025 was Ashley Kelly.

Ash is a key member of our Sheffield Construction team and had an excellent first three months of the year on the Trades & Labour desk, successfully supporting a number of new clients, alongside his existing client base and performing over and above his key targets. We'd also like to congratulate our other nominees Marc Cameron and Saphia Akbani. [Read more](#)

Our Star of the Quarter for Quarter 2 is Marc Cameron. Marc's hard work and endeavour are a constant example to his colleagues. Well done to our other nominees, Sarah Twibell and Nathan Shippiesides. [Read more](#)



New Starters



As Linear's Rail, Power & Infrastructure Division is continuing its success of the last two years, we are pleased to introduce our two new Consultants; [Andrew Smith](#) has joined our Team of Perm Recruiters, concentrating on Design/Technical roles across RPI.

[Zach Toerien](#) is now part of RPI's Trades & Labour Team, focusing on our Rail and Infrastructure business. They have both made a great start to life at Linear.

In our Manchester office, Darren Marsden has joined the team. Darren will be looking after our white collar housing and social housing business, permanent and freelance, highlighting our commitment to the housing sector as the UK makes moves to address the housing shortage.

We wish them all every success in their roles.

Pictured above Zach, and below Andrew and Darren.



Laura Wilson Promotion

We are delighted to announce Laura Wilson's promotion to Managing Consultant within the Newcastle Trades Team. Laura joined Linear back in 2018 and has been a

Ashley Kelly promotion

A huge congratulations is in order Sheffield's Ashley Kelly on his promotion to Senior Recruitment Consultant within our Sheffield Construction Team.

Due to his performance and more importantly, his hard work, activity levels, and how he has supported his colleagues since the start of this year, we have decided he deserves to make the step up early. Ash joined the business three and a half years ago and has always been a popular member of the team; he has always worked extremely hard but this year his focus and organisation has been much improved and his efforts have led to a number of new clients being brought on board.

Well done Ash, look forward to working with you as you continue your career with us.



Celebrating 10 years

We've just celebrated the 10 year anniversary of Emma Fitzgibbons working at Linear.

Emma joined the company in 2015 as Credit Controller and slotted seamlessly into the accounts team. In 2017 she made the Credit Control department her own as she was promoted to Credit Control Manager.

Emma is very hard working and genuinely cares about the company which is vital in what is an extremely important role in the company. Thank you Emma for all your hard work over the last 10 years!

valuable member of the team from her first day with us, having initially worked in the White Collar Team, Laura transitioned into the Trades Team in 2019.

Since then, she has developed a very strong network of clients and candidates and supplied many significant schemes across the North East of England. More recently she has been instrumental in helping others in the office and her promotion marks a significant step as we look to grow the Newcastle office.

This year Laura took on the role of supporting Marc Cameron with his development and this has seen Laura and Marc develop into the go-to team for trades across the North East.



Laura will now continue this role in an official capacity while focusing on growing the team further over the course of the coming months with backing from Donal Collins and myself; Grant Patterson will continue to work on projects outside of the Newcastle Trades team.

Congratulations Laura, it's well deserved.

[Contact Us](#)

Sporting News

Linear & Wideopen Pumas



Linear is proud to continue its sponsorship for the next season of Wideopen Pumas U13 Girls team and provide them with a brand new away kit. Wideopen Football Club has over 300 boys and girls teams

Oh Me Lads 🎵



Donal Collins took part in the Blaydon Races this year, held every year on the 9th June.

For those not familiar with the Blaydon Races, this is a popular race that was first held in 1981, the 5.9 mile route is based on the lyrics to the 1862 song by George 'Geordie' Ridley - 'The Blaydon Races' and

ranging from Under 7s to Under 17s, playing across the North East of England and we are delighted to offer our support to them once again for the upcoming season.

The 2024/5 season was a tricky season to navigate, as the girls had been promoted to a higher league, but then lost a key player, so were unable to maintain their unbeaten record from the previous season and unfortunately were relegated.

There's new signings on board, and the coaching team has expanded - and not to mention Linear's Geoff Taylor is now one of the new coaches and as a keen Bradford City football fan, what could possibly go wrong?

Good luck for the season ahead.

Chesterfield 10K

Well done to Ask Kelly (again!) who completed the Chesterfield 10k in May. It was his first 10k and he hadn't done any training (probably wasn't the best idea!) He and his group raised over £1000 for [Lymphoma Action](#) which is amazing for such a great cause.

is a celebration of the North East's running community, local culture and heritage.

It's an enjoyable run and a great atmosphere. Don managed it in 46 mins, only 28 mins shy of the winner, but there is the hope that maybe next year can win it...! Then came the true Geordie reward: a ham and pease pudding stottie sandwich and a can of finisher's beer.

Don is also running the **Great North Run** in September for [Heal and Toe Children's Charity](#), who provide a range of therapies to children with disabilities in the North East. To donate to his fundraising page, click on his link below:

[Don's Heal and Toe Fundraising Page](#)



5-a-side Charity Tournament

On Friday 11th July Team BarcaLinear took part in Strata Homes' Charity Football tournament, raising money for Roundabout Homeless Charity; a local housing charity in Sheffield for young people aged 16-25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Consisting of [Alex Moth](#), [Ash Kelly](#), [Jack James](#), [Gareth Tomkins FCCA](#), [Joe Poste](#) and [Donal Collins](#) the team had a great start and topped their group after convincing 8-2, 6-0 & 6-2 wins 🏆. Then they came up against Strata's team and unfortunately they lost 3-2 with the last kick of the game 😞

A great tournament, and lots of money raised - well done to everybody involved.



Random Acts of Kindess

We celebrated Random Acts of Kindness Day at Linear and used it as the perfect opportunity to spread positivity and make someone's day a little brighter with even the small acts of kindness. Every act, big or small can really make a difference. We asked our teams to leave some kudos for any of their colleagues to show appreciation and share the positivity. Here's just a few of them.....

Megan Corbally-Lidgett
3

Awesome service

Megan you are the best at making sure Linear is compliant and supporting with payroll every week! Thank you for everything you do! You go girl!)

Eshanthi Goonetilleke
3

Went the extra mile

Esh is the backbone of the office for RPI and Construction, we'd all be in an absolute mess without her and she is the sweetest soul ever <3

Joseph Poste
2

Saved the day

Joe is the voice of reason in the office and always understands what people need in that moment, great mentor who always has people's backs - big thanks to Joe for always being someone we can rely on (

Ella Terry
2

Job well done

Ella comes in and gets on with it and is good when speaking to people on the phones - great work Ella!

Alyssa Smith
1

Made my day easier

Best apprentice ever

Alex Wasawo
2

Awesome service

Alex always gives 100% effort, great work!

2025 Charity Events

This year, our two nominated charities are **Weston Park Cancer Charity** and **Young Minds**. Weston Park Cancer Charity is there to face cancer with you. Their services, advice, therapies and support are for patients and the people close to them, helping everyone to live with and beyond cancer. The funds they raise also support vital, pioneering research and clinical trials

So what are we doing to fundraise?

We're taking part in not one but TWO 5K Inflatable Races, the UK's largest 5K obstacle run - one in Newcastle on August 16th and one in Bakewell on September 13th. There's around 24 of us embarking upon the challenge, and it's set to be a load of fun.

led by the exceptional medical experts at Weston Park Cancer Centre.

Young Minds is a mental health charity for children, young people and their parents, to make sure all young people can get the mental health support they need.



We're hoping to raise as much as we possibly can for both of these charities, so if you can donate to us, that would be amazing. [Our Team JustGiving is open and you can choose which charity you'd prefer to donate to on our page. Just click here to navigate to it.](#)



in support of
YOUNGMINDS

Giving Back - Linear's Social Responsibility

At Linear we understand the importance of social responsibility and the role that we can play in adding social value, and we're looking at ways that we can give back - to our employees, our candidates and clients and our community.

One of the aspects of this that we're looking forward to getting involved in is a range of volunteering days within our communities, helping some of our offices' local charities out where we can.

We've got four volunteering days set up over the next few months, with over 20 of our team involved, which is brilliant.

We'll be volunteering with:

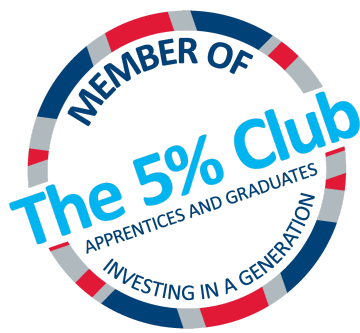
- [S6 Foodbank, Sheffield, 14th August](#)
- [RSPCA Manchester & Salford, 24th September](#)
- [Thornberry Animal Sanctuary, Sheffield, 13th November](#)
- [The People's Kitchen, Newcastle, 16th October](#)

We're really looking forward to offering our time and help to these great charities. We'll share more details of the days when they happen.

[Read more](#)



Other News



Linear has showcased its commitment to developing its people by joining [The 5% Club](#), an industry led initiative focussed on driving momentum into the recruitment of apprentices, graduates, T-Level students and sponsored students. The 5% Club is a movement of more than 1,000 employers providing 'earn and learn' opportunities to develop the skills and talents people need to become more employable and create meaningful careers. Companies joining The 5% Club commit to raising the number of apprentices, sponsored students and graduates on formal programmes to 5% of their total workforce within five years.

RISQS Audit Success

We're delighted to say we've once again successfully passed our annual RISQS audit with no NCR's. A fantastic achievement and huge congratulations and thank you to [Sarah Twibell](#) for another amazing result for the Rail team and Linear business.

Thank you to everyone else who helped too.

We're delighted to announce we're now recognised as a Stronger Together Business Partner for 2025, evidencing our commitment towards tackling modern slavery in our organisation. [Stronger Together](#) is an impact driven not-for-profit organisation that provides businesses with practical training, resources, business services and collaborative programmes to create a world where all workers are recruited responsibly and have an opportunity for work which is fair and free from exploitation. A big thank you to [Lily Turner](#) for all her hard work with this too.

Do you find this newsletter useful?

We'd love to get your feedback

SHARE YOUR OPINION





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