

Callum Ord Building Standards Officer Case Study:



I am Callum Ord and currently I am employed by Moray Council as a Building Standards Officer and have been working in the role since July 2016.

Before becoming a Building Standards officer, I worked for a number of small local Architectural Practice's for 3 years as a fully qualified Architectural Technologist, with a BSc (Hons) degree from Robert Gordon University, which involved drafting and submitting Planning and Building Warrant drawings and applications on a wide range of small to large Domestic and Non-Domestic proposals. Alongside this work I was also working towards gaining a professional qualification and becoming a member of the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists and held an Associate Membership for 2 full years before becoming a Building Standards Officer.

My previous experience of working as an Architectural Technologist helped me gain a basic understanding of the Scottish Building Regulations as unfortunately my University degree did not prepare me in the basic knowledge of dealing with the Building Regulations. During my time working in practice, I was always intrigued to develop my knowledge and understanding of the Building Regulations. It was during the winter of 2015 that my wife had seen the position for a Building Standards Officer for Moray Council advertised online, she strongly encouraged for me to apply for the position. However, I had a number of concerns about not perusing my professional qualification as an Architectural Technologist and potentially throwing away a couple of years of hard work. The job was then re-advertised in which my wife again strongly encouraged me to apply for in which I took her advice and applied for the position. After a successful interview I was appointed the position of Building Standards Officer.

Once I started working as a Building Standards Officer, I quickly realised that there is more to the position than I had originally thought. This included learning about the different procedures and different applications, such as Amendment of Warrants, Late Completion Certificates alongside carrying out site inspections etc as well as developing my foundation knowledge of the Building Regulations. Since 2016 I have managed to develop my own personal skills (alongside the help from other members of staff and qualified Building Standards Officers) I am now capable of dealing with verifying small to large scale domestic applications, including on site verifications.

Recently I have been working on developing my knowledge of the Non-Domestic Technical Handbook and have started working on Non-Domestic applications while being overseen by other experienced officers. My aim for the future in my role as a Building Standards officer is to become fully experienced on checking all range of applications from small scale to large scale Domestic and Non- Domestic applications such as large scale plotted developments, education buildings, hotels etc. As a part of this development, I am starting to work towards gaining a full membership of the Chartered Association of Building Engineers.