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27 February 2023

**TRADESPEOPLE CALL FOR MORE TO BE DONE TO ENCOURAGE APPRENTICESHIPS**

The majority (85%) of tradespeople think there is a shortage of apprentices entering construction, according to the latest research from trade omnichannel retailer, Screwfix.

When it comes to attracting future talent, while nearly all (99%) tradespeople would recommend a career in the trades, 92% believe more can be done to encourage people into the industry.

When quizzed on why they would recommend a career as a tradesperson, 86% said it was the pride in a job well done, while being your own boss (72%) and customer satisfaction (64%) came in second and third respectively.

Looking at the support needed to take on an apprentice, just 12% said they knew how to do it, with assistance and advice for hiring (39%) and training (31%) apprentices identified as the biggest barriers.

To encourage more apprentices into construction trades, and help tackle the ongoing skills shortage, last year Screwfix unveiled a new initiative to fund the training of trade apprentices. Working in partnership with Flexi-job Apprenticeship Agency, TrAC, Screwfix will support both apprentice and employer with financial support to cover the cost of training.

The new findings coincide with Screwfix’s annual Trade Apprentice competition, which aims to shine a light on the talent coming into construction across the UK and Ireland and show the need for more apprentices.

The competition, is now in its 9th year, will see the champion receive the coveted title together with a career-boosting trade bundle worth £10,000, including £5,000 of tools, a £3,000 training bundle and £2,000 worth of technology.

Jack Wallace, Screwfix Marketing Director, said: “We know that there is a shortage of apprentices coming into the trade and our latest research continues to indicate that much more needs to be done to ensure that the trade attracts future talent. The research also shows the rewarding career opportunities on offer to those working in the construction trades, with an overwhelming majority recommending it as a career.”

“While some tradespeople consider there to be barriers surrounding hiring and training apprentices, thankfully there is help and support available to overcome these. Our programme with TrAC, to provide financial funding for training apprentices, together with our annual competition, Screwfix Trade Apprentice, are just two of the tangible ways we continue to champion the trade and those working within it.”

For more information on Screwfix Trade Apprentice competition, visit: screwfix.com/sfta

**-ENDS-**

**Survey Information: Will ask McCann to add**

**About Screwfix:**

With over 870 stores across the UK, Ireland and France, and an extensive product range of over 38,000 products, Screwfix is convenient, straightforward, and affordably priced, help busy tradespeople get their jobs done quickly, affordably, and right first time.

Screwfix is part of Kingfisher plc, the international home improvement company with more than 1,500 stores, supported by a team of over 80,000 colleagues.

From power tools and work wear to cables and pipe fittings, Screwfix offers over 10,000 products available to pick up from over 870, conveniently located stores.

* Over 38,000 products can be ordered over the phone, online or from a local store, with orders taken up until 8pm (weekdays) for next day delivery to home or site.\*
* Unbeatable value at Screwfix is prices, quality and convenience you can trust - helping tradespeople to get what they need, when they need it. Screwfix is committed to meeting the need of its customers.
* Screwfix is committed to minimising its environmental impact to help create a better future for its customers, colleagues, communities, and the planet. Our ambition is to offer sustainable choices and source products that are made to last. At Screwfix, we believe if a job’s worth doing, it’s worth doing well.
* Screwfix.com and the Screwfix app attract over 7 million visits per week.
* We have over 11 million active customers a year.
* The Screwfix Click & Collect service enables customers to pick-up their goods in as little as one minute after ordering online or over the phone
* For more information visit [screwfix.com](http://screwfix.com/) screwfix.[ie](http://ie/) or [screwfix.fr](https://www.screwfix.fr/)
* Screwfix Sprint awarded ‘Best Customer Experience’ at the Retail Week Awards 2022. Introduced in 2021, Screwfix Sprint allows customers to place an order on the Screwfix app and get it delivered straight to their location – either at home or on site, in less than an hour.
* RAD 2022, Best Employer Website
* Screwfix recognised at the BRC’s Climate Action Roadmap Showcase 2022 for “Driving towards net zero properties”.
* For more information, please visit the Screwfix Media Centre: [www.screwfixmedia.com](http://www.screwfixmedia.com/)

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