

National Centre for Partnership Performance

26/02/2010

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter of recommendation is based on the highly successful collaborative relationship that the National Centre for Partnership and Performance (NCPP) has enjoyed over a number of years with Professor Peter Totterdill and his colleagues from UKWON Ltd.

The NCPP was established in 2001 as a statutory agency operating under the aegis of the Department of the Taoiseach (Prime Minister). The role of the Centre is to promote and facilitate partnership-led change and innovation in Ireland's workplaces. In 2005, the Taoiseach mandated the NCPP to play a lead role in the co-ordination and promotion of the Irish National Workplace Strategy. In the intervening period, the NCPP has managed a communications and advocacy agenda, one of the central elements of which has been the National Workplace Strategy Masterclass Series.

This series has provided a unique opportunity to bring together international and national participants, including senior politicians, policy-makers, academics and practitioners from the private and public sectors to examine topical and sometimes controversial issues of organisational change and workplace innovation. Each event in the Masterclass series has been addressed by either the Taoiseach (Irish Prime Minister) or by a Minister of State. These events have demanded a production quality of the highest calibre. For our two most recent Masterclasses, in 2007 and 2008, the NCPP was fortunate to engage the services of UKWON Ltd. to fulfil two roles: that of Masterclass Facilitator / Keynote Speaker and that of Producer / Director / Scriptwriter for two Forum Theatre productions.

Our decision to engage Professor Totterdill, who is renowned as an academic and expert consultant, was a deliberate departure on our part from a tried and tested formula where we had depended on seasoned broadcasting journalists of national standing to facilitate our Masterclass events. Equally, our decision to introduce Forum Theatre into our Masterclass was a novel venture for a State agency. On both counts, our collaboration with Professor Totterdill and his colleagues in UKWON proved to be inspired.

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Professor Totterdill filled the role of Masterclass facilitator with what seemed like effortless ease, thanks to a thorough grasp of the subject matter, a warm and engaging style of interacting with the audience, and a thoroughly professional approach to planning and preparation. Equally, the staff of UKWON and its associates proved themselves to be talented and consummately professional in their Forum Theatre productions. From the perspective of the NCPP, both the novelty of Forum Theatre and the fact that the scriptwriter, producer, director and actors were UK-based might have been expected to prove challenging. However, the creative talent and professional approach of all concerned meant that we were very pleased with the experience.

The result was what could only be described as two highly successful Masterclasses, where the audience was skillfully and creatively engaged in considering the issues at hand, while enjoying an experience that was highly entertaining, informative and interactive. Our successful experiences with UKWON Ltd. have given us the confidence to embrace new ways of engaging with audiences, and we have recommended the Forum Theatre approach to a number of interested parties in Ireland. We are happy to recommend UKWON Ltd. as an expert, reliable, creative and highly effective partner.

Lucy Fallon-Byrne

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