

OFSTED Chief Inspector visits National Grid Training site as company receives “Outstanding” three times in a row

14 Jun 2019

On Thursday 13th June, 2019, National Grid hosted a visit by Her Majesty's OFSTED Chief Inspector (HMCI) Amanda Spielman to their Eakring Learning Centre. The visit gave National Grid the opportunity to share how they are using apprenticeships to invest in the skills of its future workforce and in turn support the UK skills and climate change agenda.

The National Learning and Development Centre, situated in Eakring, Nottinghamshire is the only one of its kind in the UK, and HMCI was given a special tour of the site. The visit follows Ofsted's most recent inspection of National Grid's Apprenticeship programmes where the company was graded as "Outstanding" for the third consecutive time.

The centre offers a range of technical, professional and leadership development programmes, in addition to residential work experience programmes with 50% female attendance, to encourage more young women to consider exciting STEM career opportunities, helping to address the STEM gender gap.

Home to an array of immersive learning environments like an electricity substation, overhead lines, virtual reality suites and the only fully functional gas transmission training facility in Europe, the Eakring Learning Centre is the only UK training facility of its kind.

HMCI was not only shown these facilities but also spent time speaking to National Grid apprentices about their development journey's and facilities available on site. These include fully equipped training rooms, state of the art practical training workshops and residential accommodation for the trainees.

John Tyler, UK Head of Academy at National Grid, said: "It was a pleasure to welcome Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) Amanda Spielman to Eakring Learning Centre. It gave us the opportunity to share our knowledge, discuss and demonstrate that we are fully invested in the current and future skills of our organisation and that of the broader UK economy."

Freddie Chidlow, Substation Advanced Apprentice at National Grid, said: "I initially went to university to study physical education, but I felt it wasn't the right path for me. I wanted to try something different where I could combine training with actual work experience. I've always had an interest in this industry, and I'm pleased that I joined the National Grid Apprenticeship programme. This opportunity is a great way to get the qualifications and experience I need to start my career. There are many facilities and courses on site that will help shape my future."

Ofsted Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman said, "I am delighted to have visited the National Grid Learning Centre in Nottinghamshire. It was really inspiring to hear from apprentices about their training to be the engineers of tomorrow, keeping the country fully powered. I was particularly pleased to learn that the centre has a residential

work experience programme where 50% of the attendees are girls, to encourage them into STEM careers."



Contact for media information only

Corporate Media Relations Manager (Monday - Thursday)

Gemma Stokes

gemma.stokes@nationalgrid.com

+44 (0)7974 198333

+44 (0)1926 655272

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Notes for editors

Photo caption: L-R John Tyler, UK Head of Academy at National Grid and Amanda Spielman, Ofsted Chief Inspector.

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other

parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.

- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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