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**BLAZE  
A TRAIL**  
**Apprenticeships**  
National Apprenticeship Week  
4 to 8 March 2019

## Jack's Story: Private Insurance Apprentice, Direct Line Group

I started an apprenticeship scheme in September 2017 with Direct Line Group (DLG). I joined their Private Insurance department which works in the High Net Worth segment of insurance. The scheme has enabled me to gain knowledge and build skills within an environment full of positivity and encouragement.

I had decided during my time at school that university wasn't going to be the right move for me and that I was better suited to a more practical option for my first career step. I began to look at the apprenticeship opportunities that were out there before finding the one at Direct Line Group in the summer of 2017. From the description provided it looked like it would build upon my existing skills and develop me further so I was interested in the opportunity.

What further drew me to the DLG Private Insurance apprenticeship scheme was that it seemed more like a graduate program as it was set to rotate around the three different departments they have in the Leeds office, Sales, Claims and Underwriting. This has been full of learning on the job, gaining practical skills. Perfectly matching what I was looking for. In addition to the practical learning, there is an integral part of the course relating to my Cert CII qualification. As part of my time I have three and a half hours per week dedicated to working on my personal development and education and this is something that is important for my learning.

There are lots of industry events in the Yorkshire region. I have become part of the Harrogate Insurance Institute committee and have been going to evening events planned by The Emerging Insurance Professionals Group (EIP) which is a network of young professionals in and around the Leeds area. I have really enjoyed these events and meetings and I will continue to attend as the networking and exposure is priceless and it is also great fun.

I am reaching the end of my two year scheme at DLG. I have almost completed my Cert CII qualification and will secure a permanent full time position in the company in September 2019 when my apprenticeship scheme draws to an end. The modern apprenticeship schemes are a great balance between learning and working, it gives me a head start in gaining job experience and introducing me to the world of work. It enabled me to develop myself and provided me with experience which DLG and future employers will be increasingly looking out for.

I would like to this opportunity to say thank you to Direct Line Group, especially to Private Insurance and that team for giving me this brilliant opportunity and for all the support they have provided for me! A particular thank you to everyone that has played a direct part in my early career so far. I am very excited for what is yet to come.

### **Emerging Insurance Professionals**

*'To connect, engage and empower the next generation of insurance professionals and leaders'*

**Find out more about the EIP – [Click Here](#)**