

MEMBER CASE STUDY

Mark Thompson

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Ryder Architecture was established in 1953. The current leadership took the business on in 1994, when we had 14 members of staff with one office in Newcastle. Over the years we have opened offices in London, Glasgow, Liverpool and finally Hong Kong. We now have about 140 staff spread across our multiple offices.

We joined the CBI at the point of recession. We were involved in a lot of public sector work, as was the whole industry, but we got a call and had to just put a lot of work amounting to £18 million over a three year period on hold. We were really struggling to get any indication as to how things were going to pan out from a government point of view and the CBI offered the intelligence we needed to stay in the know, and were the best conduit to government so we could get answers to stay ahead.

It was a lot easier to engage with the CBI's work than I initially anticipated. I had expected it to be a bit of a closed show and geared towards larger business. Personally I sit on the North East Regional Council which forms part of the network of over 600 senior business executives that meet quarterly to discuss and decide the CBI's key policy focus and thereby influence the policy landscape. I'm also on the national construction council, and within the Newcastle City Region we've formed an unofficial construction forum to try and harness the views in the region. Being on the CBI regional council gave me the credibility to be able to set something like this up – CBI also supports by putting their name to it and dialling into meetings to help keep us informed

The general network has been really important, it's been easier to open doors through contacts from the CBI than it otherwise would have been – hence why I'm keen to encourage all our regional colleagues to engage more locally.

THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP:

1. CBI helps clarify our thinking and make difficult business decisions in a more informed way – such as whether to start exporting
2. There's always the opportunity for informal mentoring – through events I've met people who I've been able to work with just to sound them out on a few issues – the membership opens you up to new people
3. As a business we've grown in confidence and a part of that is having a different network to bounce ideas off

WE'RE YOUR VOICE

A COMMUNITY FOR YOUR BUSINESS

membership@cbi.org.uk

ABOUT CBI MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the CBI means you are part of the UK's premier business community giving you access to a network of 190,000 ambitious businesses across all sectors and sizes. Bringing you together with likeminded individuals to ensure that the UK is the best place in which to invest and do business from.

The CBI represents all business, regardless of size or sector

The CBI is the leading business organisation for all sizes and all sectors of business across the UK. Whether you're an ambitious start-up, are an established local business, or are multi-national, CBI membership can benefit your business.

No two memberships are the same

We know that you are busy running your business and there is no 'correct' model of engagement, we look to make our opportunities as flexible as they can be. Whether you want to receive our information virtually, dial into the occasional webinar and attend the odd event or would prefer to get fully involved in our consultations, forums and events – your membership is tailored to you.

The CBI is an organisation for business funded by business

We're a not-for-profit organisation financed by our member contributions and participation in commercial events.

The CBI is unique amongst membership organisations

The seniority of our network and our access into government is what sets us apart from other business organisations. It is CEOs steering our agenda, and the top levels of government want the CBI and our members round the table when making policy decisions. The fact we represent all sectors and have offices throughout the UK and internationally also means we have a diversity of views no other organisation can compete with.

We want your whole organisation to benefit from your membership

There are a variety of opportunities at the CBI for everyone across your business. Many of these are at board level and we will work with you to manage the relationship, and meet your business needs.

The benefits are tailored to you

CBI members use their membership in different ways depending on what they are looking to get from the relationship usually members are looking for a combination of: access to government, influence over policy, good practice sharing, B2B networking opportunities to grow their business, insight & intelligence to help their business planning.