

# Close Motor Finance grows senior management team

## Appointments

CLOSE MOTOR Finance has expanded its senior management team with four appointments.

The company has hired Richard Parr as senior head of marketing, John Kelly as director of analysis and decision support, Andrew Spruston as director of partnerships and Sean Mayman as director of national sales.

The new recruits will join

existing management at the firm's Doncaster head office in promoting growth of the company and its dealerships across the UK and Ireland.

Communications agency Words&Pictures has hired five people in its Leeds office, across the group's three companies.

David Norton joined the education team as head of education (business development), Brent Craig

has been named business development manager in the commercial division, alongside senior client manager Fiona Broomfield. Sally Ward has been appointed client co-ordinator in the educorn team, while Clare Addy is the new head of digital and engagement.

A sixth appointment, Stephen Roberts, joined the company as education development manager in the Midlands office.

The Professional Speaking Association (PSA) has named Frederika Roberts as president of its Yorkshire region office.

Ms Roberts succeeded Lee Jackson, taking responsibility for activities from October 18.

The PSA said it is "jacking the trend" by appointing women to a number of leadership roles.

Three of the PSA's 12 regions have female presidents, with

a total of seven women in leadership roles across the local offices.

"I don't believe women should be promoted to senior leadership positions because of their gender," Ms Roberts said.

"I do, however, believe there are far more highly capable women out there than general trends for female/male ratios in senior leadership roles would indicate."



**'HIGHLY CAPABLE':** Frederika Roberts, president, Professional Speaking Association in Yorkshire.

SMEs said the same.

The South West, North East and Wales were the least likely to expect global business growth.

Four out of 10 (42 per cent) of SMEs in Yorkshire and Hamber said international business would be important to them in two years' time.

Top barriers to international trade include not having relevant services or products for an international market, lacking the appropriate resources to develop global trade and not having a local presence in non-domestic markets, the research found.

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## Briefing

### Center Parcs names firm as top supplier

**EQUIPMENT:** A Bradford-based workplace equipment company has won a supplier award from holiday villages group Center Parcs.

Slingsby won a Center Parcs Supplier Award from the chain, which operates holiday resorts around the country.

It was one of 50 of the firm's 1,500 suppliers to be recognised.

### £10m retail park given the go-ahead

**DEVELOPMENT:** A £10m retail park in Albert Road, Darlington, has been given planning permission by Darlington Borough Council.

The four-acre Darlington North Retail Park, which is being developed by Ilkley-based Opus North, will create 150 jobs and is due to open by spring 2016. Retail giants Aldi and Iceland have already signed up to have stores in the park.

### More firms join the green initiative

**SIGNING UP:** Thames Tideway Tunnel, Lafarge Tarmac, Temple Group, Kier Infrastructure and Barhale Trant Utilities have become the latest signatories to the Infrastructure Carbon Review (ICR).

Led by the Green Construction Board, the ICR is a joint industry and Government initiative which aims to encourage more leading businesses to become "greener".

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