

Biography

Simon Purdon - Lochaber

Background

Based in Fort William, Simon Purdon holds the position of Regional Development Officer for Business Gateway in Lochaber. Simon has worked in the public and private sector in Fort William for over twenty years and, as such, has built up an extensive business network in the area. Prior to joining Business Gateway he was employed as the Office Manager at Nevisport and then at West Coast Outdoor Leisure. Most recently he spent three years as a Development Manager at Highlands and Islands Enterprise, where he was highly involved with business start ups, particularly social enterprises.

The role of Regional Development Officer

Simon joined Business Gateway as a Regional Development Officer in 2009. His experience and local knowledge placed him well for this role and he was keen to take on the challenge of establishing Business Gateway in the Lochaber area.

Areas of expertise

Simon has a good grounding in business support, gained not only from his work experience but also from his participation in training courses focusing on account management and finance. Simon's local knowledge, excellent relationships with other public sector agencies and commitment to shaping the economy of the local area are all key to the success of Business Gateway.

Simon's top business resource

Simon admits that *"I am a big fan of using online resources to ensure that I keep bang up-to-date with high level business developments, both locally and nationally. For me, the Financial Times and The Economist are the most credible sources, and the ones I turn to most regularly"*.