

Academies caught in training clampdown

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HJ exclusive by Andrew Don

Umberto Giannini Training and Wiltshire-based Sarum Training have come under fire from the new Training Standards Council (TSC) which is to inspect all training establishments.

The new inspectorate has the sanction of the Department for Education and Employment and those failing to come up to scratch will have to produce an improvement action plan.

Midlands-based Umberto Giannini Training achieved an overall training score signifying "satisfactory provision with a mixture of strengths and weaknesses".

But in four other areas it scored low grades for management of training and quality assurance.

The report referred to "poorly planned" training, "unsympathetic and informal" equal opportunities practice and trainee support and "no effective practices to ensure the provision is controlled to secure its consistency and is continuously improved" at Umberto Giannini.

However, it added that the quality of instruction and resources were good and the appointment of a new training manager had resulted in recent improvements.

Sarum Training in Salisbury, Wiltshire, got the lowest grade for its hair and beauty training, although it did well in other industry sectors.

The report also said: "Both hairdressing and assessment in hairdressing at Sarum are poor. Programmes are badly planned and poorly documented."

Richard Howell, training manager at Umberto Giannini Training, conceded some of the comments made about Umberto Giannini Training were fair.

But he claimed the organisation was marked down on management of training because the inspectors had questioned someone who only knew about salons rather than the training.

"Since the inspection, we've made considerable improvements and these amendments have won the approval of the local Training and Enterprise Council," said Howell.

Dr Ian Chapman, managing director of Sarum Training, said the inspection was a bit premature. "It was a new programme and there were a number of systems that weren't in place here. The difference between how it is now and how it was then is dramatically different," he said.

Nicky Perry, TSC senior inspector, said there had been ample opportunity for feedback before the report was finalised. "If they are unhappy about it this is the first we have heard," said Perry.

A Hairdressing Training Board spokesperson added that it "welcomed" the availability of information.



Richard Howell - training manager at Umberto Giannini Training

in the fun

team in full view

years, the streets were with people jumping up down and dancing to c. People were so essed with our float that threw money at it, n we are going to te to a charity." e salon's float beat others to walk away first prize.