

Paralegal Gains Criminology Degree



AFR Advocates' paralegal Bill Brogan has gained a BSc (Hons) in Crime and Criminology.

After 10 years with the Guernsey police, which included six in CID, Bill Brogan moved into the legal sector and in October 2003 began studying for his degree by correspondence with the Institute of Criminal Justice Studies at the University of Portsmouth.

“Criminology had always fascinated me and when I left the police I started to think more and more about the causes of crime and decided that I wanted to learn more. I self-studied for eight months in an effort to understand the basic concepts of criminality and its causes prior to applying for the course”.

Each year of a degree takes between 15 and 18 months when it is studied through distance learning. His dissertation, entitled ‘The Night-time Economy’, studied the issues and identified possible solutions to the problem of drinking and public disorder in Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man.

“At times it was extremely hard work but it has been worthwhile. I have had semi-retirement in mind and so what I am looking to do eventually is to use the skills that I have learned to raise awareness of the issues surrounding the causes of crime.

The support I have had from my employer, AFR Advocates, has been excellent and has made a real difference. Not only did they assist me with my fees, they gave me study leave and I had access to all the resources within the firm. The firm has some extremely talented and experienced advocates and lawyers and to be able to draw upon their knowledge helped enormously”.

Senior Partner of AFR Advocates, Peter Atkinson, said that supporting staff through training was part of the company ethos.

“Studying and training is something that must be encouraged. We have a number of employees studying and we offer as much support as we can. Not only does it benefit the individual but it also benefits the firm and brings additional skills and expertise. Bill has shown great commitment and we are all extremely proud of his achievement”.

Whilst studying for his degree, Bill also completed a City & Guilds, Preparing to Teach in the Life-Long Learning Sector, and is now running Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies classes through the College of Further Education.

Bill said “this is the first course of its type that has been available in Guernsey and I am delighted at the positive reaction everyone has shown. It has been most interesting to explore the different aspects of criminality”.