

MY STORY

# WOMEN IN POWERED ACCESS

## KATE BELL

HEAD OF UK TRAINING, NATIONWIDE PLATFORMS, UK

IPAF's Women in Powered Access initiative invites women of all ages in a variety of professional roles to share their inspiring stories, to help showcase and celebrate the opportunities our industry offers.

**What is your role in powered access?**

My role is the Head of UK Training for Nationwide Platforms.

**How did you come into the industry and what attracted you to it?**

I joined 18 years ago in a telesales role that serviced the construction industry. I became sales manager for the customer training division and my career progressed from there. I was never fazed that most employees in the industry were male; I was brought up with two older brothers and some of my closest friends are men. My first manager was a mum like me – she was and still is a great inspiration and mentor. What I love about this industry are the hard-working people that you meet and the challenges we face – no two days are ever the same. I get to play a part in assisting our customers from personal and professional development through to fulfilment and completion of a project – with safety being paramount, so everyone goes home safe to their families and loved ones at the end of each day.

**What do you find inspiring about your role?**

The customers we work with are fantastic, really safety-conscientious owing to their high-risk working environments. This creates agile and innovative thinking, which in turn inspires me. In addition, I'm extremely fortunate to work for the UK's market leader and, alongside industry experts, my colleagues inspire me daily with their shared knowledge and enthusiasm.

**Where do you see yourself in five years, and what do you want to achieve?**

We are working on a few initiatives at present, such as our trainee instructor programme. The purpose of this is to attract more people to choose instructing as a career path and allows our current experts to pass on their knowledge,



ensuring continuity within the industry.

**What advice would you give to other women in/thinking of entering the industry?**

If you are thinking about joining the industry and are looking for a diverse, challenging and rewarding career, just do it! For those already in the industry wanting to progress their career – set yourself some goals and ask a manager or mentor how to progress these. Always be yourself, stay focused and be inspired! Gender should not determine your success – only you can do that!

---

**“I assist customers from development through to fulfilment and completion of a project – with safety being paramount.”**

---