



In their own words:
New to the world of
contracting

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A PayStream Q&A with Maggie Darling - Events Manager

People take the leap into contracting every day, and although it is usually a good career move, it can still be scary. Often, joining an umbrella company is a good first step as it still allows you to take advantage of all the benefits you get with PAYE whilst maintaining all the flexibility of contracting. But there are lots of umbrella service providers to choose from, so which one do you choose when you're new to contracting?

We talked to Maggie Darling, who has been working through PayStream's umbrella service, My Max, for the past 6 months. She told us all about the joining processes and how PayStream have made everything much more straightforward than she expected.

Becoming a contractor

Originally from Canada, Maggie started her career in public relations, communications and events. When she made the move to the UK it was then that she decided to look at contract work as there was more choice of contract positions than permanent ones. A choice that turned out to be the right one for her.

An opportunity soon came up, and Maggie was working in events and marketing for a department of the government of Scotland.

"Right now we're doing three major autumn conferences that have been organised in Inverness, Aberdeen and Glasgow," Maggie said.

"I've also organised a couple of different parliamentary events with members of the Scottish Parliament and various external stakeholders."

The recruitment company that helped find Maggie the position recommended that she worked through an umbrella company and PayStream were one of their preferred suppliers. So after doing her own research on what we had to offer – compared to some of the other umbrella providers around - she decided to go with us.

Setting up with PayStream

In doing her research, Maggie was impressed by what she saw on PayStream's website. "It seemed the most straightforward, and easy to understand," she said. She followed this up by contacting our customer care team, and she found them "super, super helpful", adding: "They were knowledgeable on what they were doing and it just made the whole process very simple."

There were some concerns, of course, namely the work visa that Maggie had. However, we were able to answer her questions and let her know that it would be fine to work as one of our umbrella employees.

The actual set-up process was nice and easy for Maggie. "It only took a couple of days for me," she said. "And during that process I had the chance to talk on the phone with someone directly, so they were able to answer any questions I had."

A simple, straightforward service

So, how has it been for Maggie since signing up?

"I would say its been pretty simple, all my payments have come in on time."

We aim to make things as easy as we can for our umbrella employees, and Maggie certainly seems to agree that we've done a good job.

We also want to make sure that our umbrella employees can always call us if they have any questions, and we'll make sure we get back to them as soon as possible. "I did have one question at one point," Maggie said, "and they got back to me the same working day with an answer. So that was great."

We're proud to have been able to help Maggie, and we're glad she's had such a good experience with us.

"I would definitely recommend PayStream to others. It was a really straightforward, simple process and it made the whole job hunt and contracting opportunity just that much simpler."

If you're new to contracting and are looking for an easy to join, hassle free umbrella company, then look no further than PayStream.

Speak to a member of our team today.

Call us on **0161 929 6000** or email info@paystream.co.uk



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