

## Inspiring a younger generation into STEM and the Aviation Industry

**Our goal:** Inspiring young people to explore careers in STEM and aviation, to support and encourage their future career choices.

**How can you help?** By sharing your story

Name & job role:	Di Patterson, Vetting Officer, Aviation Security
What did you enjoy doing when you were younger?	Drawing, dancing and reading.
What were your favourite subjects in school? Why?	English was my favourite – I loved words and still do. Languages: Latin, French, Spanish – again, love of words in all different languages. Art
What or who inspired you to study these?	I gravitated towards subjects I seemed to be good at – and when I got good marks it gave me a firmer interest.
Did you do work experience? Where and did it help in choosing your career path?	Work experience was not an option when I was younger. I did, however, do Saturday jobs in my teenage years. I worked in retail on Saturdays, but I did not follow that career path
What was your first job?	My first job that wasn't a Saturday job was Personal Assistant
How did you arrive where you are in your career?	I was a Personal Assistant from the age of 18 in various organisations and in the CAA from 2003 until last year, when I became a Vetting Officer in Aviation Security.
What do you love about your current job?	It is mainly autonomous, interesting and no two days are exactly the same in dealing with a variety of people.
What were the biggest challenges/barriers you had to overcome?	Being a single full-time working mother in the early 80s – it was not the norm, and juggling priorities and proving your worth was a challenge.
Who have you looked up to and why?	I have been very fortunate to have had some amazing bosses over the years and I have looked up to all of them – great role models.

What is your ambition?	As I have reached an age when I am able to retire my ambitions are changing somewhat.
What is the best advice you were given?	Always be yourself, do your very best, own up to mistakes and try to put them right – this has served me quite well.
What advice would you give a younger you?	Be more confident and take more chances to achieve greater things.

Any additional comments:



Thank you for sharing your journey.