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A SPACE IN THE CITY

SERVICED APARTMENTS – THE SMART SOLUTION FOR WORKING AWAY

With a team of the UK’s most experienced consultants in SAP Technologies under his wing, Neil Thomas is the Project Manager for HCL AXON. The expertise of Neil’s team is in demand by large and complex organisations around the world. Their success is not without a cost however. The need to be based close to the client for the duration of each project necessitates regular and prolonged periods of working away from home.

NEIL, TELL US A BIT MORE ABOUT WHAT YOU DO...

I’m Project Manager for HCL AXON. I’m a consultant, and also manage a team of consultants. I spend my working week in Cardiff, and travel back to my home to spend time with my family on weekends.

WORKING AWAY FROM HOME MUST BE TOUGH, HOW DO YOU COPE?

It is tough, but would be more difficult without the facilities I have in my serviced apartment.

WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN A SERVICED APARTMENT?

Serviced apartments provide the privacy I need along with the comfort and luxury I would choose for an apartment of my own.

Anyone who works away from home for regular or long periods knows the feeling – when you’ve been working all day it’s nice to be able to go back to your own apartment,

and do what you want to do, when you want to do it. Over 90% of my colleagues opt for a serviced apartment over any other means of accommodation.

There are also significant cost savings to be gained. Per consultant, we now save around 10-20%. With an average of 20 consultants staying in serviced apartments with A Space in the City every week, over a year we typically save around £70,000.

Finally, staying in a serviced apartment means I don’t have to think about council tax, utility bills or TV license because they’re all covered within the fixed rate.

SO WHAT EXACTLY DOES YOUR SERVICED APARTMENT OFFER?

My apartment is like my second home. It’s modern, beautifully furnished and has lots of space, with a fully equipped kitchen, large bathroom, two bedrooms and an en-suite bathroom. It also has all the techy things to keep me going such as free broadband, an iPod docking station, LCD TV and a DVD player.

Because I spend every working week in my apartment, I don’t have to take my belongings home at the weekend – the apartment is reserved purely for my use. I can leave all of my suits, and even my guitar there, rather than lugging them home every week. Another advantage is that I don’t have to do any cleaning. The housekeepers do that as a standard part of the package.

WHAT’S IT LIKE HAVING ALL OF THAT SPACE?

The space is a really big plus side of serviced apartments. With the spare bedroom, I love the fact that my family can come down to visit me whenever they want, and at no extra cost.

I also regularly use the spare room and living area as a work-space to hold meetings and even in the past, to conduct interviews.

DO YOU MISS NOT HAVING MEALS INCLUDED WITH YOUR ACCOMMODATION?

Not at all. You can quickly get fed up of eating out. Due to the nature of my work, I often eat at odd times. Serviced apartment provides me with the facilities I need to fix my favourites foods at times that suit me. Very often I have meetings over lunch and just want something simple for tea. It also means I can eat my breakfast whilst watching the news, and eat my evening meal without everyone looking at me because I’m on my own!

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