

# MP congratulates Edinburgh restaurant manager Rachel with an invitation to Westminster

Local MP Deidre Brock greeted Rachel Clark from the Slug and Lettuce in Edinburgh at the House of Commons this week. Deidre wanted to congratulate her on graduating from Stonegate Pub Company's 'Bar to Boardroom' management training programme.

Rachel's progression through the programme is the 200th General Manager appointment from Stonegate's pool of home grown talent. She completed the company's award winning 'Accelerator' programme.



L-R\_ Rachel Clark General Manager (Slug and Lettuce) with Deidre Brock MP

To mark the graduation of 200 Deputy Managers through the programme, a number of MPs joined Stonegate's 'Accelerators' and senior executives to learn for themselves how it works.

The Accelerator programme is part of Stonegate's award-winning 'Albert's Theory of Progression' suite of training, designed to give employees the tools to bridge the gap between Deputy Manager and General Manager, through education and dynamic group learning.

The course aims to build the participant's confidence, encourage continued independent learning and help them to work together effectively as team. It consists of three workshops: Creating a Winning Mind; Winning in Communication and Winning in Business.

It also includes a practical component as participants must organise and produce a fundraiser event in their pub for a charity of their choice. The 200 Accelerators have raised over £300,000 for UK Charities between them with this initiative.

The guests toured the House of Commons before the main event, hosted by Luton MP Gavin Shuker. Stonegate Chief Executive, Simon Longbottom, commended the graduates and the company's development team.

He said: "People are at the heart of what we do. We're delighted to be able to recognise the achievements of our incredibly hard-working Accelerators here at the House of Commons. The course is a shining example of how commitment in personal development can change people's lives, as they fast become the company's most promising managers and future industry leaders.

"Reaching our 200<sup>th</sup> milestone is a really proud moment for Stonegate and the House of Commons is a fitting place to celebrate. As well as being a memorable occasion for the Accelerators, we believe it is important to help MPs

understand the vital role that our company and the wider pub and bar industry play in offering, not just jobs, but worthwhile progressive careers, with arguably the best opportunity out of any industry to go from the bottom rung right to the very top.”