

Online50: Enabling Home Working for Chase Inventory Services

Now that Chase Inventory Services has adopted management accounting and moved to Online50, they're reaping the benefit of better quality business information and fully expect to reduce their annual accounting fees. At the same time, Chase is a perfect example of how well Online50 can support flexible home-based working.

"Since we started using it, Online50 has met all our objectives and we have been delighted with the level of service and support. The only thing that remains to be seen is whether our move to management accounting and Online50 will reduce the cost of our annual accounts!"

Janet Richardson, Finance Manager Chase Inventory Services



Chase Inventory Services was founded in 1990, providing detailed inventory reports to the residential property market. Since then, a reputation for friendly, professional and reliable service has seen continued growth.

Managing Director Laura Stewart now employs a network of 15 independent home-based clerks. The company serves over 120 top lettings agents across London, Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Buckinghamshire, Essex, and Hampshire, as well as numerous private landlords and relocation agencies.

"Our husbands are technical but, to be honest, none of us really wanted to have a server in the house and the time, effort and expense of managing our own system simply made it uneconomical. Online50 offered us exactly what we needed."

Janet Richards—Finance Manager Chase Inventory

Annual fees received are now in excess of £500K and the company's expansion is set to continue.

In the early days, Chase used Sage Instant to run their accounts. Clerks simply sent in their completed worksheets and Janet Richardson – the Chase financial manager – would use these to invoice agents and landlords directly from Sage.

"As we continued to grow," says Janet, "we needed something more robust, especially as we wanted to move to management accounting."

"We needed to upgrade Sage Instant to a networked version of Sage Line 50 to let me, Laura, and the Company Secretary all access the system together."

Janet's first thought had been to look into purchasing a server and setting up a dedicated Chase network but after taking advice from a number of IT contractors about what hardware and software was required, they ruled out this option.

Further, as Janet Richards pointed out, "Our husbands are technical but, to be honest, none of us really wanted to have a server in the house and the time, effort and expense of managing our own system simply made it uneconomical."

Janet next searched the Internet to see if she could find another solution.

That was when she found Online50. Janet says "As a Sage Authorised Application Service, and with years of experience hosting applications, they offered us exactly what we needed - a networked version of Sage Line 50 that we can access from our homes but without the headache of managing it and the worries of security and data loss."

Invoicing and the recording of worksheets now take much less time and are more easily managed.

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only thing that remains to be seen is whether our move to management accounting and Online50 will reduce the cost of our annual accounts!" added Janet.

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Janet Richardson - Finance Manager Chase Inventory Services

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