

# SME of the Year Highly Commended 2015

## O'Donovan Waste Disposal

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O'Donovan Waste Disposal is an independent, family-run company with roots dating back to the 1950's. It has grown into one of London's leading waste management companies, specialising in construction and demolition waste. The company employs 140 people, runs an 85 strong fleet of vehicles and has a turnover in excess of £14m. Process improvement and new ways of working have increased sales over the last five years by more than 120%.

O'Donovan's focus on training, its investment in the very latest safety equipment and its work with bodies such as Transport for London (TfL) gives its customers the peace of mind that they are a supplier that delivers best practice. O'Donovan holds regular reviews with key clients in order to deliver the very best service. Every aspect of their operation is consistently monitored and reviewed. Using a bespoke operational management system, personal development plans for staff and standards such as the FORS benchmarking system, performance is monitored on an ongoing basis and improvements implemented. With all staff heavily involved in operational changes, there is huge staff buy-in to new schemes and ways of working.

O'Donovan is a pioneer in vehicle safety, committed to reducing risk to both drivers and other vulnerable road users. The company has been recognised as exemplar by Transport for London and the Mayor's office, has been hailed as one of the UK's first construction logistics and cycle safety champions, and holds accreditations from Contractors Health and Safety Assessment and Safecontractor.

O'Donovan has been awarded the Leadership & People Development Award at the Constructing Excellence in London and the South East Awards two years running, and FORS Gold Standard accreditation for the third year running. MD Jacqueline O'Donovan was also shortlisted for the NatWest Everywoman Awards in 2014 and has been shortlisted for this year's IoD Awards for Family Business Director of the Year.



### Judges comments

O'Donovan deserve to be highly commended as they're more than an outwardly facing company. They visibly drive radical change across the industry, not just within their own ranks. They lead the way by demonstrating success. They also concentrate on their home market in London rather than risk losing focus by expanding into other locations.

**O'DONOVAN**  
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