



Department for International Trade

Graham Stuart MP
Minister for Exports

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Dear Adam,

I am writing to congratulate the UK Fashion and Textiles Association on the first ever British Textiles Week.

I know that the UK's textile manufacturing sector produces £5.8bn of materials a year, ranging from the world's most sought-after cashmere to the finest worsted wool, luxurious tweeds and distinctive tartans.

With over 4,200 businesses in a sector that employs more than 64,000 people right across the UK, from Harris Tweed in the Hebrides to Fox Brothers in Somerset, I am impressed by the multitude of talented designers and manufacturers producing apparel, interior and technical textiles for use in industries all over the world. For example, AW Hainsworth (based in West Yorkshire, not that far from my own constituency of Beverley & Holderness) not only make the scarlet cloth of the Queen's Guard's uniforms here in the UK, but also export this high quality cloth to international markets, including Japan and China.

I know things have been tough for the textiles industry recently, but we have a great story to tell, with the UK exporting £3bn of textiles a year and continuing strong demand in markets such as the USA and Japan. I therefore wish you all the very best in delivering this first British Textiles Week and congratulate you on making it happen.

Yours sincerely,

GRAHAM STUART MP
Minister for Exports
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