



ukft[®]

What we've been doing on behalf of our members:

Q2: 2021





There is no doubt that Covid and Brexit have hit our industry incredibly hard but we remain committed to helping members navigate this uncertain environment and exploit every opportunity that exists. Now that the dust is starting to settle, we're working to find a variety of solutions that may help and encourage collaboration so we can overcome common challenges together.

We are deeply disappointed by the decision to end the popular Tradeshow Access Programme, which has helped thousands of companies to enter new international markets over the many years but we will find new ways to do things, such as our joint stand at Project Tokyo or our Best of British Textiles and British Brands campaigns, which highlight the creativity and flair UK fashion and textiles are known for.

We're making great strides in ensuring our industry has access to fit-for-purpose training so that companies can expand their workforce when the time is right. We are also working to breathe fresh life into our industry through initiatives to encourage more young people to join the sector.

While they may not be at the forefront of business decisions in the short term, innovation, R&D and sustainability will be critical to drive our industry forward both here and overseas. We've outlined some of the projects UKFT is involved in, as well as a number of others that should be on your radar. While I hope we can catch up in person soon, please rest assured we're here for whenever and however you need us. Just drop us a line at info@ukft.org – we'd always love to hear from you.

In the meantime, read on for an update what we've been doing on your behalf during the second quarter of 2021.

Stay in touch,

Adam Mansell

Contents

04 VOICE OF THE INDUSTRY

Outlining the impact of Brexit on the UK fashion and textile industry
UKFT x BFC Industry Government Forum
British Brands: The best in homegrown fashion
Best of British Textiles
Showcasing the unique strengths of the UK fashion and textile industry
Representing our interests in the media
Growing the network

07 BUSINESS SUPPORT

Sharing knowledge and experiences: Webinars and Surgeries
Employment & HR service
Work with our associate members
Supporting fashion and textile start-ups through UKFT Rise

09 UK MANUFACTURING

Showcasing our industry's Manufacturing Heroes
MADE-IT Production Internships for design students
Sew Connect: Addressing critical skills shortages and production vacancies
Build Back Better – 5 priorities for UK fashion and textiles
Championing young manufacturers
Opportunities: PPE, grants and more

11 SKILLS & TRAINING

Promoting careers to young people at Skills England
UKFT's Young Textile Technician Fund
Securing the future of Vocational Qualifications in England
Developing T Levels for Craft & Design
Apprenticeships for Fashion and Textiles in England
Expanding the apprenticeship training provider network
Costume National Occupational Standard (NOS): Updated
Scotland: SVQ in Leather, Sewn Products or Textiles Manufacturing
Wales: Fashion and Textiles Academy proposed
Northern Ireland: First apprentices in over a decade
Production Sewing Machinist Training (Remote Learning Modules)

13 INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Adapting to life beyond Brexit
International tradeshows: Fashion
Tradeshaw Access Programme
Brits in Tokyo: UKFT group stand at Project Tokyo
International Tradeshows: Textiles
Free Trade Agreements: Australia, New Zealand and India
Gaining recognition for UK exporters

16 INNOVATION, R&D AND SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainable Supply Chain Optimisation
Future Fashion Factory
Doctorate - Digitalisation in Textiles
Virtual Bespoke Patterning research
The Business of Fashion, Textiles and Technology (BFTT)
Sustainability & Government Policy
Textiles Circularity Centre
Traceability for Sustainable Garment and Footwear
Textiles 2030
Institute for Positive Fashion
Energy: Climate Change Levy
The impact of Aftercare

18 UKFT SCOTLAND

Scotland's global aspirations
Contemporary Scottish Lifestyle in Japan at Project Tokyo
Industry Leadership Group (ILG)

Voice of the industry

As the collective voice of UK fashion and textiles, UKFT is committed to creating the best environment for our industry.

OUTLINING THE IMPACT OF BREXIT ON THE UK FASHION AND TEXTILE INDUSTRY

98% of UK fashion and textile companies have experienced increased bureaucracy around exporting and importing in the first half of this year, according to a new survey from the UK Fashion & Textile Association.

The findings also showed:

- 92% experienced increased freight costs
- 83% had problems with customs clearance
- 55% had cancelled orders from wholesale customers/retailers where Brexit was the only cause
- 44% had rejected/returned orders from consumers where Brexit costs were the only issue
- 38% had problems returning goods to the UK from the EU (for example if they were unsold)
- 74% experienced an increase in costs due to new tariffs

UKFT has been in very close dialogue with the UK Government on the problems that the industry has faced as a result of the UK leaving the EU. UKFT has held numerous meetings with civil servants and ministers and most recently met with Lord Frost to discuss issues including how to make the movement of samples easier, ways in which the rules of origin regime with the EU could be simplified and the need to look at a more straightforward mechanism of dealing with UK/EU returns.

UKFT has issued a wide range of sector-specific advice to members and has held a number of webinars to help companies understand the pitfalls in the new trading arrangements with the EU.

UKFT, in conjunction with BFC, has also held a series of industry briefings providing in-depth reports on the organisations interactions with government.

Read the full report here www.ukft.org/brexit-bureaucracy-survey-july-2021

UKFT X BFC INDUSTRY GOVERNMENT FORUM

UKFT and BFC launched the Industry Government Forum to help identify key priorities for the sector, particularly in light of the impact of Covid-19 and Brexit. The forum will help to identify key priorities for the industry and shape UKFT and BFC's interactions with government both in the short and long term.

The two organisations are closely aligned in three areas: supporting people and talent, helping businesses to trade, and shaping the sustainable future of the UK fashion and textile industry.

UKFT and BFC have held three sessions so far, firstly focused on Covid-19 and Brexit, followed by Talent & IP, and finally Trade & Tariffs.

Read more here www.ukft.org/lobbying-and-government-relations/ukft-bfc-industry-government-forum

The screenshot shows the UKFT News website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the UKFT logo and a search icon. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image of a person's hands holding a piece of fabric. The main content area is titled 'News' and includes a sub-header 'Read our latest news and press releases.' Below this is a filter menu with tabs for 'Academic', 'Aftercare', 'Associate', 'Business', 'Exports', 'Fashion', 'Manufacturing', 'Skills', 'Spotlight', 'Textiles', and 'All'. The 'All' tab is currently selected. The main content area displays a grid of nine news articles, each with a thumbnail image, a date, a category, and a headline. The articles are: 1. '07/07/2021 | Fashion: Applications open for next round of Scottish EDGE' (with a thumbnail of a blue and white striped fabric); 2. '06/07/2021 | Textiles: UKFT Vacancy: Textile Membership Manager' (with a thumbnail of colorful threads); 3. '05/07/2021 | Textiles: Companies flying the flag for UK textiles at Milano Unica this week' (with a thumbnail of a blue and white patterned fabric); 4. '07/07/2021 | Fashion: Clevercare Update: Encouraging consumers to play a part in textile care' (with a thumbnail of a white garment with a tag); 5. '01/07/2021 | Exports: Brits in Tokyo: Exhibit at Project Tokyo with UKFT' (with a thumbnail of a person in a workshop); 6. '30/06/2021 | Business: UKFT Guide to the new EU Import One Stop Shop (IOSS)' (with a thumbnail of a red and white striped fabric); 7. '28/06/2021 | Fashion: Emerging Glasgow fashion designer aims to slow the trend of fast fashion' (with a thumbnail of a person in a white dress); 8. '28/06/2021 | Manufacturing: Weaving work placements through the Entry to Work scheme' (with a thumbnail of a weaving loom); 9. '28/06/2021 | Fashion: UKFT & Smart Currency Business Outlook Report 2021' (with a thumbnail of colorful spools of thread). The bottom right corner of the grid has the text 'BUSINESS OUTLOOK REPORT 2021'.



BRITISH BRANDS: THE BEST IN HOMEGROWN FASHION

We launched the BRITISH BRANDS campaign to showcase the emerging designers, cult labels, heritage producers and creative artisans changing the face of UK fashion.

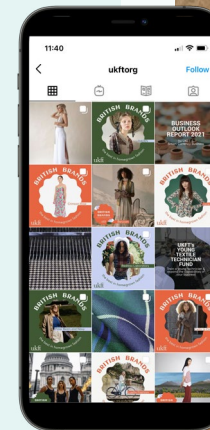
LINGERIE, INTIMATE APPAREL, SWIM & SLEEPWEAR

In the first instalment, we focused on intimate apparel, swim and sleepwear, showcasing UK labels offering everything from size-inclusive lingerie through to sustainable swimwear, premium sleepwear, luxury basics and beyond.

Today's contemporary UK independent brands are leading the way in terms of local production, gender and size inclusivity, and creative design. The latest collections are designed to fit and flatter a variety of body shapes and sizes, celebrating originality and individuality like never before.

There is a strong focus on sustainable materials, reduced environmental footprint and ethical production for lingerie, swim, sleepwear and intimate apparel, with brands looking to innovative, organic and deadstock fabrics and embracing slow fashion trends to create pieces that are designed to last.

Brands featured include: Edge o' Beyond, Boardies, Buttress & Snatch, Studio Pia, Bloomin' Sexy, Irregular Sleep Pattern, Fleur of England, Boujo Hake, Nubian Skin, Arabella London, Tallulah Love, The underargument, Yolke, Valiant Lingerie, BLUEBUCK, Carmen Liu Lingerie, Hemingsworth, AmaElla, Leticia Credidio, Derek Rose, Lucy Jones Lingerie, Contour Atelier, Phaein, Talia Collins, Tutti Rouge, Miss Mandalay, Jane Woolrich, Marsylka, Riz



Boardshorts, Something Wicked, Syzd Swimwear, Ms A London, IHUOMA and Valerie Lane.

Find out more at www.ukft.org/fashion/intimate-apparel

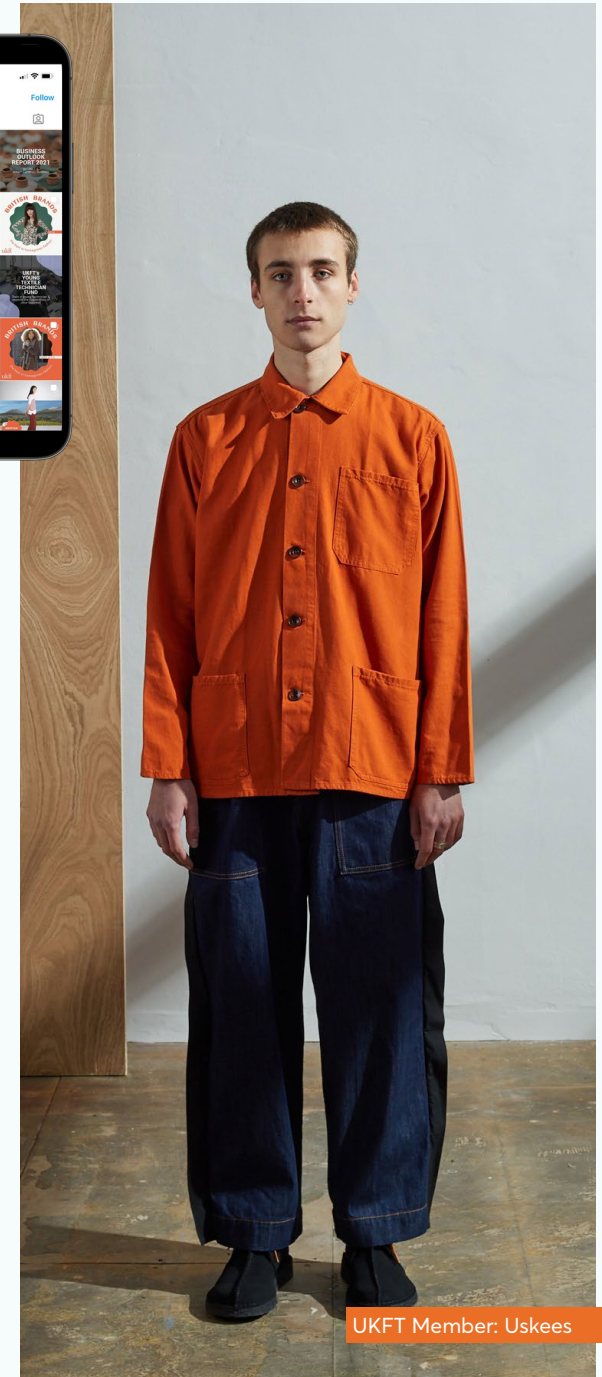
MENSWEAR

UKFT's British Brands campaign showcases UK menswear labels offering everything from luxury knitwear, contemporary tailoring, superior outerwear and exquisite leather goods through to statement pieces, Workwear-inspired basics, minimal wardrobe staples and beyond.

Contemporary UK independent brands are leading the way in terms of local production, gender fluidity and creative design. Collections celebrate originality and individuality like never before, with many refusing to adhere to the dizzying seasonal calendar to maintain timeless appeal.

Brands featured include Gravalot, Boardies, John Smedley, Sounder, SIRPLUS, Simon Carter, Peregrine, Pantherella, Mackintosh, Daniel Crabtree, Uskees, TYLER & TYLER, the good neighbour, Ettinger, Chester Jefferies, Black Dress Code, Cortili, Coxmoore, David Hampton, Ester Kubisz, Figurments, GORAL, HADES, Hemingsworth, LUKE 1977, Alan Paine, Blake Mill, Walker Slater, Dhenze, JIMBAG, Jennifer Kent, Malloch's, Cambridge Satchel Company, ZOUMA, SLMPD CO and MG Rivers.

Find out more at www.ukft.org/fashion/menswear



UKFT Member: Uskees



BEST OF BRITISH TEXTILES

We continued to shine the spotlight on British textile companies from all sectors of our industry as part of our Best of British Textiles campaign. From handweavers with a focus on slow fashion through to larger family-owned textile mills with impressive client bases, the campaign will feature the very best of British textiles designed for interior, apparel, handicraft and technical end uses.

HANDICRAFT TEXTILES

In the third instalment of our campaign, we highlighted a variety of British textile companies that create some of the most exciting and innovative textile products for the hand-crafting market.

Products range from colourful tapestry yarns for both traditional applications and contemporary craft kits, through inspirational hand-knitting and crochet yarns for the modern crafter, threads and accessories for home sewing, to recycled yarns and yarns with a sustainable message. British textiles are renowned internationally for their creative edge and technical ingenuity, and British handicraft textiles are exported to global markets far and wide. Businesses profiled include Blacker Yarns, Appletons Wool, iinouii, Linton Tweeds, King Cole, Adjustoform, Korbond, Laxtons and The Natural Fibre Company.

Find out more at www.ukft.org/textiles/handicraft

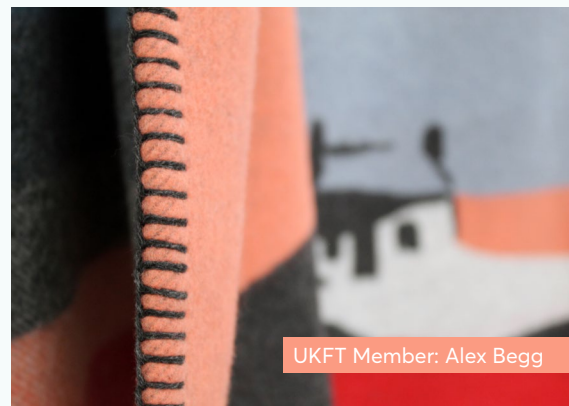
TECHNICAL TEXTILES

The UK industry plays a key role in the international marketplace for technical textiles and is considered a world leader in product research and development. Advanced

high-performance technical textile products made by UK manufacturers are destined for industries such as aerospace, military, medical, automotive, and cover a wide range of performance applications including thermal and fire protection, chemical splash protection, water repellency, abrasion resistance, antistatic and antibacterial properties.

Brands featured include: Halley Stevensons, Carrington Textiles, Hainsworth Protective Textiles, Edmund Bell, British Millerain (MillTEC), Arville Textiles, Sam Weller, Baltex, Technical Absorbents, THS Industrial Textiles. Find out more at www.ukft.org/textiles/technical

The campaign also featured Interior Textiles and Apparel Textiles. Find the full details at www.ukft.org/textiles



UKFT Member: Alex Begg

SHOWCASING THE UNIQUE STRENGTHS OF OUR INDUSTRY

We introduced a variety of new and existing brands to our broad network, with member spotlights shared on our website, newsletter and social media platforms. These include:

- Zouma
- L.R.D
- Studio Pia
- The Good Neighbour
- Irregular Sleep Pattern
- Carrington Textiles
- Kinalba
- BBCo Headwear
- Peregrine Clothing
- Edge O' Beyond
- Caramel Rock
- Gravalot
- Mondomagna

We profiled news including Goat rebranding as Jane, John Smedley receiving a second Royal Warrant, ApparelTasker expanding and opening a new sampling studio, as well as Johnstons of Elgin's commitment to sustainability recognised with a Queen's Award for Enterprise.

We created features to highlight what a variety of UKFT members were doing to mark Fashion Revolution Week and Earth Day, as well as asking female leaders from within our network to share the best advice they've ever received for International Women's Day.

Business support

Practical advice and technical support to help companies grow.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES: WEBINARS AND SURGERIES

UKFT published a variety of new guides for members including:

UKFT Examples of Terms and Conditions (for online customers, privacy policy, website and wholesale)

UKFT Brexit Guide to the Implications of Free Circulation

UKFT Brexit Guide to Returned Goods Relief

UKFT Brexit Guide to Inward and Outward Processing Relief

UKFT Guide to Immigration and Movement of People post-Brexit

UKFT Guide to Design Protection Post-Brexit

We also held a number of webinars for members, covering topics, challenges and opportunities UK fashion and textile companies are facing at the moment. These included:

How to work with agents and distributors in the EU post-Brexit

Managing your logistics successfully

USA Roundtable

Canada Roundtable

We also promoted a wide variety of opportunities for our industry including Innovate UK's Creative Industries Fund, applying for a Royal Warrant, entering the Queen's Awards for Enterprise, Made Smarter, DIT's Internationalisation Fund, The Trampery's Sustainable Fashion Accelerator, Mr Porter Futures, Leather Associated Student Grants programme, Expo 2020 Dubai, Manufacturing Futures, SME Brexit Support Fund and Scottish Enterprise's Green Jobs Call.

EMPLOYMENT & HR SERVICE

UKFT members can access the UKFT Employment & HR helpline for expert advice on working from home, Covid safety, redundancies and other employment issues that businesses may be encountering right now.

With years of employment relations in the UK fashion and textile industry at local and national level, UKFT can provide guidance on a range of issues.

See separate UKFT Employment & HR Q2 2021 Update.



UKFT Member: Mackintosh

WORK WITH OUR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

We established new relationships with firms including logistics specialist [Greenway Logistics](#) and [The Brand Hangar](#) which offers ecommerce pick and pack, wholesale distribution and courier services. This is in addition to [Global-E](#) which enables ecommerce retailers and brands to provide customers in more than 200 destinations worldwide with a seamless, localised shopping experience.



UKFT Member: Onesta



UKFT Rise Subscriber: Satatland

SUPPORTING FASHION AND TEXTILE START-UPS THROUGH UKFT RISE

UKFT Rise weekly newsletters share inspirational stories of founders, business and industry updates, as well as new or interesting apps and tools to help build a brand. During the last quarter we have promoted opportunities including the Young Innovators Awards 2021/22 Briefing Event, MR PORTER FUTURES and the BFTT SME R&D Support Programme – Funding Call Round 3.

Meet the subscribers

www.ukft.org/rise/meet-the-subscribers

UKFT Rise webinars

We have held a range of educational webinars with UKFT Rise Ambassadors so far this year:

The importance of being a sustainable business and ways in which you can achieve this - Sophie & Chris, Lars Labels

How to build a lasting relationship with your suppliers - Diana Kakkar, Maes London

Discover how to create strong brand awareness and build an engaged social media following - Stephanie & Samantha, Pretty Lavish

UKFT Rise Ambassadors

UKFT Rise ambassadors support us in championing the exciting start-ups entering the UK fashion and textile industry, are key players from our sector who have travelled the bumpy road of entrepreneurship, and have formed successful businesses.

The UKFT Rise Ambassadors will be helping to raise the profile of our growing community by sharing it with their network. They'll also be hosting upcoming webinars that explore key business topics, while honing in on their own experiences and expertise to provide our subscribers with valuable insight and support in developing their brands.

Downloadable documents

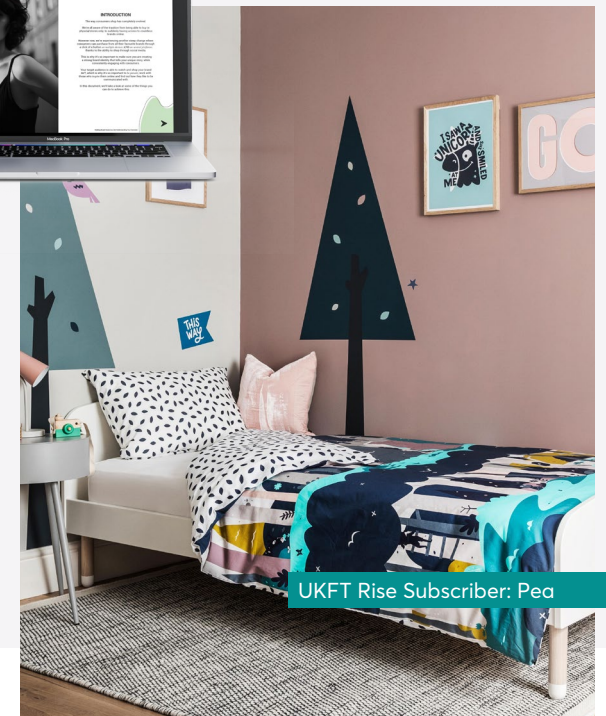
UKFT Rise subscribers have access to a range of downloadable documents and templates to highlight some of the key things you should be aware of when running your own business.

Deals and discounts

UKFT Rise subscribers can access exclusive deals and discounts with partners including Wolf & Badger, Lone Design Club, Crowdcube and more.

Shared experiences

Plus subscribers can join the UKFT Rise Stronger Together programme to be matched with fellow founders in fashion and textiles, and can join the exclusive Facebook Group to share advice, challenges or inspiration.



UKFT Rise Subscriber: Pea

UK manufacturing










Supporting the growth of 'made in the UK'.

SHOWCASING OUR INDUSTRY'S MANUFACTURING HEROES

The UK fashion and textile manufacturing industry is incredible but often goes under the radar. Our Manufacturing Heroes campaign showcases some of the amazing individuals in our rich manufacturing sector. Some of our most recent profiles include:

- **Mark Lyons**, Shima Programme manager at Barrie Knitwear
- **Karl Headleand**, head of operations at Celtic & Co
- **Colin McColm**, knotter at Alex Begg

www.ukft.org/manufacturing/manufacturing-heroes

		
MARK LYONS Shima programme manager, Barrie Knitwear	KARL HEADLEAND Head of Operations, Celtic & Co	Colin McColm Knotter at Alex Begg
		
DIANA KAKKAR Founder, MAES London	CLIFF JOHNSON Knitting Machine Operator, John Smedley	MAXINE WELLS Founder, Intimate Apparel Samples
		
ZACK SARTOR Founder, Apparel Tasker	EUAN DALGLIESH Assistant manager, Macnaughton Holdings	JACKIE DEAN Raw materials technician, Johnstons of Elgin

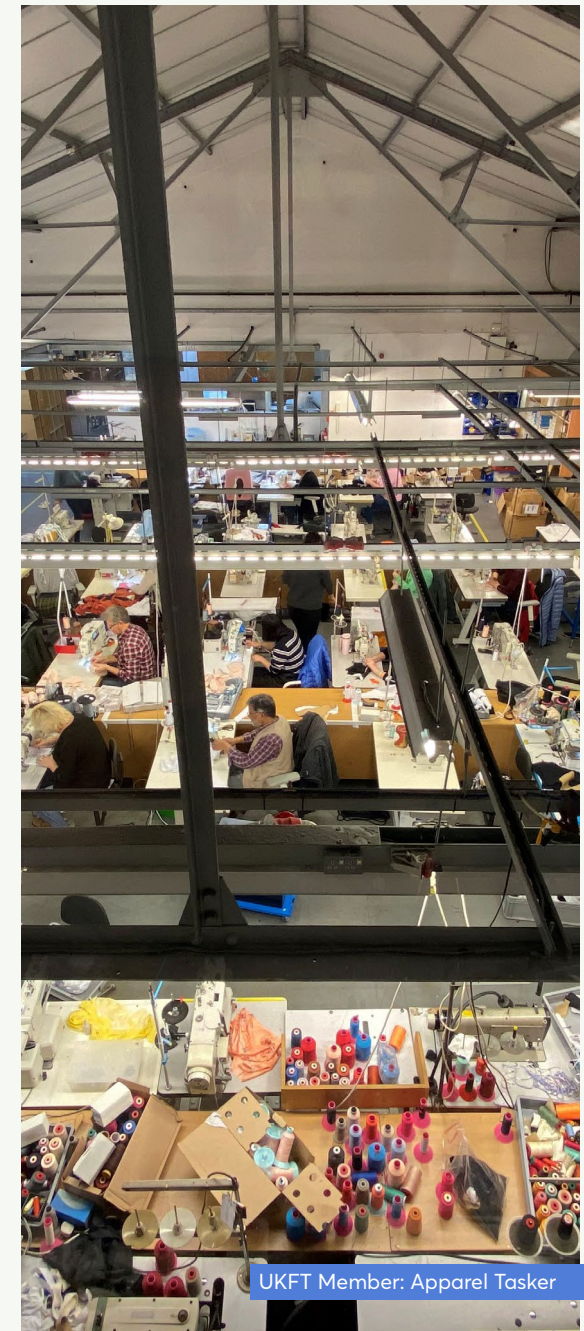
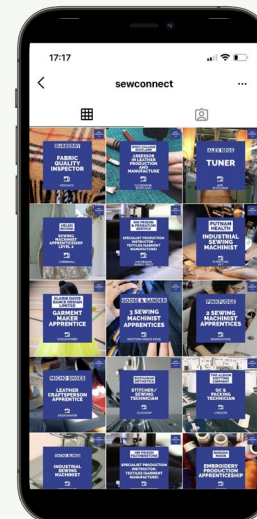
SEW CONNECT: ADDRESSING CRITICAL SKILLS SHORTAGES AND PRODUCTION VACANCIES

Sew Connect is our initiative launched last year to share jobs in sewing, textile and garment production and help to address the skills shortages in this vital part of the industry. The platform is now gaining traction with employers and potential new recruits. We have recently shared vacancies from employers including:

- Fashion Enter
- Macnaughton Holdings
- David Nieper
- Sparks & Daughters
- Amack Group
- Molke
- John Spencer Textiles
- Northumbria NHS Trust
- HM Prison & Probation Service
- James Dewhirst
- Oh Sew Whitty
- Edge O Beyond
- The Senator Group
- Anita Massarella
- Goral
- ApparelTasker

Find out more
www.ukft.org/sew-connect

sew
connect
by ukft



MADE IT: PRODUCTION AND SOURCING MASTERCLASSES FOR DESIGN STUDENTS

UKFT's MADE IT aims to give university design students a better understanding of the production and sourcing environment within industry, while promoting the benefits of UK manufacturing.

For the 2020/21 edition of the project, UKFT is working with **University of Salford, Winchester School of Art, Plymouth College of Art, De Montfort University** and **Bucks New University**.

The first phase saw UKFT deliver a masterclass at each participating university to promote the importance of production and sourcing within a rounded fashion education and to highlight the breadth of job opportunities across the supply chain.

"It's great to know that we still have such a rich mix of manufacturers in the UK," said Aurora Dickson, a third-year fashion design student at the University of Salford.

"I wish I left university with the pack and information presented at the masterclass," said Sharon Williams, Teaching Fellow, Fashion & Textile Design at Winchester School of Art.

"The masterclass offered invaluable insight into sourcing, the importance of strong relationships with manufacturers and the supply chain process," said Charlotte Farmer, second year Contour Fashion at De Montfort University.

Students were set a production project and we have now selected five finalists to take part in the second phase of the scheme, which will see one student from each participating university offered a fully financially supported internship opportunity within a production environment in the UK.

UKFT will work with the students to identify the right places for their 8-week internships for the summer. Throughout this process, we will be covering their stories of their placements and construct a good-intern guide for interns and businesses to use as industry collateral.

www.ukft.org/manufacturing/made-it



Plymouth College of Art: Work by Leona Robertson for our 2019 Degree Shows.
Photograph by Sarah Packer



UKFT Member: John Foster

BUILD BACK BETTER: 5 PRIORITIES FOR UK FASHION AND TEXTILES

The impact of Brexit and Covid-19, combined with environmental concerns and changing consumer behaviour means there has never been a better time for reshoring UK fashion and textile manufacturing at scale. UKFT's CEO Adam Mansell set out the five changes we need to make that a reality.

www.ukft.org/build-back-better

CHAMPIONING YOUNG MANUFACTURERS

We worked with Made Here Now to showcase a number of Young Manufacturers at companies including Jack Masters, John Smedley, Apparel Tasker and Pinpoint.

Read more at www.ukft.org/made-now-young-manufacturers-survey

OPPORTUNITIES: PPE, GRANTS AND MORE

We worked with the Department for Health and Social Care on a call for manufacturers – textile supply opportunity for single use PPE - with the longer term aim of establishing UK manufacturing chains.

www.ukft.org/textile-supply-opportunity-ppe

We also promoted opportunities including Innovate UK's Creative Industries Fund, Made Smarter, the Leather Associated Student Grants programme and the Scottish Enterprise's Green Jobs Call.

We profiled Katwalk Kimberleys on reviving garment manufacturing in Middlesbrough.

www.ukft.org/katwalkkimberleys-middlesbrough

Skills & training

Addressing critical skills gaps and developing industry-led solutions.

PROMOTING CAREERS TO YOUNG PEOPLE AT SKILLS ENGLAND

UKFT exhibited at the digital Skills England event in the North West, South West and Humber in April to promote opportunities in our industry to young people.

We created videos to give more info on the sector and inspire young people to join. This featured employers including Mulberry, Alex Monroe, Dr Martens, English Fine Cottons, Celtic & Co, Samuel Brothers and more. It also showcased training providers including Bridgwater & Taunton College, The Tailoring Academy, Keighley College, Makers HQ, Textile Centre of Excellence, Fashion Enter and more.

See more here www.ukft.org/skills-and-training/career-promotion/skills-england



UKFT Member: Wallace Seawell

UKFT'S YOUNG TEXTILE TECHNICIAN FUND

UKFT's Young Textile Technician Fund is designed to allow businesses across the UK to train their young textile technicians, predominantly in weaving positions. The fund will cover 50% of the costs of in-depth training for young textile technicians, thanks to the generous support of The Worshipful Company of Weavers, The Worshipful Company of Clothworkers and The Worshipful Company of Drapers.

Training is typically carried out by machinery builders, often at overseas training schools, and is extremely specialised. As companies invest in new textile technology, the requirement for highly-skilled textile technicians has never been more important but this type of in-depth training can be prohibitively expensive. UKFT's fund allows businesses to extend their capabilities, increase flexibility and develop new skills at textile companies within the UK.

The fund is now open to businesses applying to train textile technicians under the age of 30.

To date, the initial funding allocation of £80,000 (£40,000 matched) is all but used up with some elements of ringfenced spend for businesses with planned training in the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2021.

UKFT has successfully secured a further round of funding, from The Worshipful Company of Weavers, The Worshipful Company of Drapers and The Clothworkers' Company.

This will be used throughout the last quarter of 2021 and into 2022 to support the sector with technician training.

SECURING THE FUTURE OF VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN ENGLAND

The Department for Education review of vocational qualifications of Level 3 and below has led to some of the existing fashion & textiles Level 3 vocational qualifications being withdrawn from public funding allocation in England from August 2021. The DfE decision was made due to zero starts or 'low numbers' over the past three years.

To ensure the Apparel and Textiles sector continues to access units from the qualifications withdrawn from public funding, UKFT has advised SEG Awards in the new Access to HE Level 3 qualification ('A' level 3 equivalent) development from March 2021.

It is anticipated this new publicly funded qualification will be available for starts in September 2021. This intervention ensures that specific job role related skills are available in England which will also compliment the 'generic' introduction to the sector with the new 'T' Levels in 2023.



UKFT Member: Mondomagna

DEVELOPING 'T' LEVELS FOR CRAFT AND DESIGN

John West, skills and training manager at UKFT, is on the panel that is developing the outline content for new T Levels for craft and design, which will encompass fashion and textiles. T Levels, which will be on a par with A Levels, aim to provide young people with a high quality choice between technical and academic education post-16.

The course content was approved by both the Department for Education and The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education in March 2021.

APPRENTICESHIPS FOR FASHION AND TEXTILES IN ENGLAND

UKFT is in the process of reviewing and updating a number of apprenticeship standards in England for fashion and textiles, including Level 3 Bespoke Saddler, Level 2 Textile Manufacturing Operative and Level 5 Bespoke Tailor and Cutter Standard.

EXPANDING THE APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROVIDER NETWORK

The UKFT training provider network is made up of historical apprenticeship providers which is reliable but remains small in numbers and sometimes does not match employer demand across the regions of England.

UKFT has secured a new provider in North West for Sewing Machinist delivery. We have also started an outreach programme to training providers and colleges to expand the network even further.

SCOTLAND: SVQ IN LEATHER, SEWN PRODUCTS OR TEXTILES MANUFACTURING

The SVQ in Leather, Sewn Products or Textiles Manufacturing at SCQF Level 5 was approved and accredited by SQA in April 2021.

WALES: FASHION AND TEXTILES ACADEMY PROPOSED

Gower College continues to be the main provider offering the Welsh fashion and textiles apprenticeship frameworks. Gower College has around 20 apprentices on programme (11 of which with Jenny Holloway ex Laura Ashley factory, with a further 19 vacancies advertised). Discussions for a Fashion and Textiles Academy are ongoing with Welsh Government and stakeholders. It is set to be situated in Newtown.

NORTHERN IRELAND: FIRST APPRENTICES IN OVER A DECADE

Strabane Training Services (Centre) and The Fashion and Textiles Design Centre (Facilitator) are now centre approved by SEG Awards to provide Work Based Learning training and assessing for the sector in Northern Ireland. Once Apprentices are on programme this will be the first cohort in Northern Ireland for over a decade.

UKFT has been invited by the Department for Education to join the Northern Ireland Creative and Cultural Sectoral Partnership.

PRODUCTION SEWING MACHINIST TRAINING (REMOTE LEARNING MODULES)

UKFT is in the process of developing a series of remote learning modules aimed at new production sewing recruits. The modules are currently being uploaded to the Skills and Education Groups (SEG) online learning platform. Two training providers have agreed to pilot the modules when they have been uploaded to the platform. The modules include specialist footage from industry leaders including Cookson & Clegg, Clare De Lune and Herbert Parkinsons and cover topics such as the role of a Production Sewing Machinist, working with industrial sewing machines, lockstitch machines, overlockers, fabric and thread, health and safety, and quality and quantity.



UKFT Member: LR.D

International business

Helping UK companies reach new markets overseas.

TRADESHOW ACCESS PROGRAMME

The Department for International Trade (DIT) cancelled the popular and effective Tradeshow Access Programme (TAP) in July with immediate effect. The TAP export scheme has been enormously important for the UK fashion and textile industry as it is almost unique as a route to financial support for smaller companies as they start their export journey.

The scheme provided a small amount of financial support to SME companies attending major international trade shows. UKFT has worked with those companies and the government to ensure the grants are used in the most effective way and to help companies grow through international sales.

Over the years, many household names have been launched at key events using the scheme in Paris, Milan, New York, Shanghai, Berlin and Florence, including: Paul Smith, Vivienne Westwood, Alex Monroe, Edward Green, Abraham Moon, Tateossian, Jenny Packham, Orla Kiely, Simon Carter, Grenfell, Harris Tweed Hebrides, Sunspel, Christopher Raeburn, People Tree, Kestin Hare, Liberty Fabrics, Folk, Melin Tregwynt, Huddersfield Fine Worsted, Tyler and Tyler, GH Hurt. In addition, UKFT has been able to use the scheme to promote the broader industry including larger companies like Johnstons of Elgin, Begg Scotland, John Smedley, Corgi Hosiery and Dents who have worked with UKFT to support smaller companies coming through and raise the profile of UK plc at a number of international shows.

UKFT has written to Graham Stuart MP, Minister for Exports at DIT and Stephen Barclay MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury to request an urgent meeting and clarification of the government plans.

UKFT has been told that HM Treasury will look at ways government can remain involved with international shows but it is not clear whether fashion and textiles will remain a

priority or whether grants will be part of any new scheme.

We are also working with UK companies wishing to show at tradeshows where there is no official group to maintain the profile of the UK even though the UK presence will be substantially down compared with previous years and other international groups, including the EU, which have been quicker to support their companies.

INTERNATIONAL TRADESHOWS: FASHION

Pitti Uomo was one tradeshow that took place physically from 30th June to 2nd July and UKFT was heartened that a small number of UK companies took part, including Harris Wharf London and Leathersmith of London. Bluebuck, Edward Green, Dhenze and Mantidy all participated in the digital event Pitti Connect.

Paris Men's Fashion Week is scheduled to run physically in July, as are the New York menswear shows which are relocating this season to Miami alongside Miami Swim Week. Paris Women's Fashion Week is scheduled to run from 1st to 4th October. In the ongoing context of Covid, we are seeing that most shows expect to be regionally focused for most of 2021.



UKFT Rise Subscriber: Bamford

ADAPTING TO LIFE BEYOND BREXIT

Our recent survey confirmed that 86% have been forced to review their EU and ROW business models as a result of Brexit and are experiencing additional costs and delays. We are helping them with this, providing much needed information and solutions but companies perceive that their wholesale and B2C exports are undermined by the UK-EU TCA and most have taken the opportunity to cut any non-essential expenditure.

In 2020 this would include trade show attendance in the UK or overseas. Most believe that their wholesale business will come back and that they will have to reinvest, from 2022 onwards. Advice around Brexit has become the most important focus of our work and is likely to remain so for most of this year.

UK companies are especially nervous about committing to tradeshows shows whilst there is still uncertainty about whether non-essential business travel will be allowed from the UK.

On top of this, we are hearing from UK companies that the new challenges of travelling to and shipping to and through the EU have caused most companies to reassess their export business model.

BRITS IN TOKYO: UKFT GROUP STAND AT PROJECT TOKYO

UKFT launched a standalone physical group of British exhibitors at [PROJECT TOKYO](#) on 9th and 10th September.

Project Tokyo at Hikarie, Shibuya is expected to welcome a maximum of 250 brands of upscale menswear and womenswear. This is a juried exhibition open to quality collections of menswear and womenswear only. The show has an excellent track record for European and heritage fashion and accessories. Goods made in the UK are especially popular in Japan and UKFT is keen to enable UK companies to take full advantage of the UK's Free Trade Agreement with Japan which came into effect on 1st January 2021.

At present, it is anticipated that British business travellers will not be allowed to enter Japan in September so UKFT has arranged for the CPR Tokyo team to man the UKFT "Brits in Tokyo" group stand. There will be the option for companies with a representative in Japan to book their own stand for their representative to man with a central stand location alongside the Brits in Tokyo stand. All companies will be promoted by UKFT to key buyers and social media in advance of the event and the organisers are offering a free listing for all participating brands on their WOBE virtual tradeshow to enable buyers to connect with brands even if they cannot travel.

Find out more at www.ukft.org/project-tokyo-ukft



INTERNATIONAL TRADESHOWS: TEXTILES

From January to May 2021 only a very small number of tradeshow were able to take place in physical format: the majority of international textile tradeshow have pivoted to virtual versions of their events, these having a rather limited degree of success:

Heimtextil January 2021 (interior textiles) was initially postponed until May 2021 but has since been cancelled and the next event is now planned for the traditional dates in January 2022.

Milano Unica February 2021 (apparel textiles) – virtual event with just six UK participants. There was no charge to regular exhibitors to take part in the virtual event, and the six participants had a small number of enquiries via this platform.

Première Vision February 2021 (apparel textiles) – virtual event with 10 UK exhibitors. At short notice DIT offered TAP funding through a pilot scheme for eligible exhibitors, however given the tight parameters of this pilot scheme, only one exhibitor was able to take advantage of the TAP funding. UKFT supported the participants at the PV Digital show through social media posts and newsletters.

Intertextile Shanghai, March 2021 (apparel textiles) – a physical event on an almost 'normal' scale, with the majority of regular Chinese buyers and exhibitors attending in person. 15 UK exhibitors participated but did not send UK staff out to the show due to travel restrictions (instead their stands were staffed by their Chinese agents/distributors). TAP grants were made available via UKFT to 5 eligible exhibitors. UKFT supported the British exhibitors through social media posts and newsletter, plus a press release which was available in both English and Mandarin to visiting journalists. The British exhibitors were supported on-site by UKFT's Shanghai-based representative, who was able to send us photos on a daily basis of some very busy British stands.



h + h cologne @ home, March 2021 (handicraft textiles) – virtual event. This was the second year that h+h cologne had not taken place in physical format, having been cancelled at very short notice in March 2020. From an early stage the organisers decided that the 2021 show would be a digital event and invested heavily in upgrading their website to be in a position to host a wide variety of interviews, panel discussions, interactive workshops as well as virtual stands for each participant. 3 UK companies took part, one of which qualified for TAP funding under the pilot scheme for virtual events. All felt their participation had been 'worthwhile' especially in terms of maintaining their international profile, and a small number of enquiries had been received. UKFT supported the UK participants at the event through social media posts and a newsletter.

Techtextil, Frankfurt May 2021 (technical textiles) – although it had initially been hoped this event could take place in physical format, this has now been postponed and will take place in June 2022.

Looking forward: Plans are afoot for Première Vision to take place in Paris in September and the A/W edition of Intertextile Shanghai is scheduled to take place at the end of August this year – a month earlier than its traditional timeslot.



UKFT Rise Subscriber: Sabina Savage

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS: AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND INDIA

UKFT continues to engage with the UK Government on a regular basis on issues around Brexit and the UK's new trade agreements.

The main priority currently is to ensure that the UK Government works with the EU on a number of areas where the UK-EU TCA agreement does not deliver on the spirit of the agreement the parties felt they had reached in December.

We have made a number of submissions to the government with regard to the UK-Canada, UK-Australia, UK- New Zealand and UK-India. In general terms, because of the Rules of Origin we expect to see (where most UK exports would be expected to have UK legal origin) the UK's partners stand to benefit more than the UK in most cases in our industry. This is because FTAs almost always benefit countries which produce raw materials at the expense of those which do not. The UK Government is aware of this but the deals are of political importance to the Brexit process so our expectation is that they will go ahead regardless of the balance of benefit to the UK. On this basis, we are seeking to protect standards in the UK market wherever possible, pushing for EU cumulation wherever possible and looking for areas, such as wool imports from Australia and New Zealand which, potentially, over a period of time could enable the UK supply chain to re-establish itself and ensure that the UK stands a better chance of meeting its ROO requirements for future trade deals.

This is potentially important for UK knitwear and textiles. For UK-India, we are pushing HMG for greater market access for exporters and to protect the UK's GSP scheme relationships with countries including Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The government appears to have heard our concerns around CPTPP (formerly the Trans Pacific Partnership) with regards to the influence of China.

GAINING RECOGNITION FOR UK EXPORTERS

We are delighted that three of our members were recognised in the **Queen's Award for Enterprise 2021**: swimwear brand **Boardies**, Nottingham knitted lace manufacturer **G.H Hurt & Son** and **Johnstons of Elgin**.

"Winning a Queen's Award for Enterprise is a great honour and I would like to thank UKFT for all their guidance and support in our first few years that helped Boardies to build its international business." Nick Crook, founder of Boardies

"We would like to credit UKFT as instrumental to our award offering a long list of assistance that directly influences our achievement with growth in international markets." Richard Taylor, co-director at G.H. Hurt

The Queen's Awards for Enterprise are a globally-recognised royal seal of approval for UK companies. The deadline for applications for the Queen's Awards 2021 is 9 September 2020.

The Queen's Awards for Enterprise are for outstanding achievement by UK businesses in the categories of:

- Innovation
- International trade
- Sustainable development
- Promoting opportunity through social mobility

UKFT can help guide members through the process. For more details, contact info@ukft.org

Innovation, R&D and Sustainability

Shaping the future of the UK fashion and textile industry.

Textile innovation can be found in the cars we drive, the buildings we live and work in, the planes and trains we use, on the sports field, in operating rooms, the battlefield and even in outer space and there are major growth opportunities for UK companies in medical textiles, advanced materials and composites and smart textiles.

Textile innovation in the UK is ranked number 3 in the world and number 1 in Europe in terms of patent generation and a recent survey shows that spending on R&D in the industry stands at 5% of turnover – above the average for all manufacturing industries.

At the same time the demands placed on the sector to transform to a sustainable, environmentally responsible and ethical model has never been stronger. Circularity, sustainability and a transparent use of resources now dominate the agenda of all progressive fashion and textile companies.

UKFT works across a wide range of projects to help the UK industry take full advantage of these new technologies and markets and to help change the future landscape of the textile industry in the UK into one where circularity and environmentally sustainable supply chains are the new normal.

Find out more at www.ukft.org/innovation



UKFT Rise Subscriber: Petit Pli

UKFT INNOVATION AND R&D PROJECTS

[Sustainable Supply Chain Optimisation](#)

A pilot project to create a data-driven platform, enabling manufacturing supply chain real-time decision-making, effective track and trace, and sustainability.

[Future Fashion Factory](#)

A £5.4 million R&D partnership exploring and developing new digital and advanced textile technologies to boost the design of high-value creative products. UKFT's Adam Mansell is chair of the project.

[Doctorate - Digitalisation in Textiles](#)

A project led by UKFT Scotland and Paulius Stugla at Strathclyde University to develop methodology for helping manufacturers apply the benefits of Industry 4.0 in practice.

[Virtual Bespoke Patterning research](#)

A partnership project UKFT Scotland is involved in, funded by Interface, researching the potential in innovating bespoke tailoring and manufacturing.

OTHER INDUSTRY INNOVATION PROJECTS

[The Business of Fashion, Textiles and Technology \(BFTT\)](#)

The Business of Fashion, Textiles and Technology (BFTT) is a five-year industry-led project, which focuses on delivering sustainable innovation within the entire fashion and textile supply chain.

[SmartT](#)

An international research collaboration led by the University of Southampton will unlock the potential of innovative smart textiles for use across a range of high growth industries.

UKFT AND SUSTAINABILITY

[Sustainability & Government Policy](#)

Find out more about UK Government Policy around sustainability in the UK fashion and textile industry, and UKFT's role in activity.

[Textiles Circularity Centre](#)

A new Textiles Circularity Centre, led by the Royal College of Art, aims to reduce the UK's reliance on imported and environmentally- and ethically-impactful clothing materials.

[Traceability for Sustainable Garment and Footwear](#)

A UNECE project to develop an international framework initiative to enhance transparency and traceability. UKFT is on the main strategic committee board and in the subgroup for industry pilots.

[Textiles 2030](#)

UKFT is a signatory to Textiles 2030, which aims to accelerate the fashion and textiles industry's move towards circularity and system change in the UK. UKFT's Adam Mansell is on the advisory board.

[Institute for Positive Fashion](#)

BFC's Institute for Positive Fashion celebrates industry best practice and encourages future business decisions to create positive change. UKFT's Adam Mansell is on the steering committee.

[Energy](#)

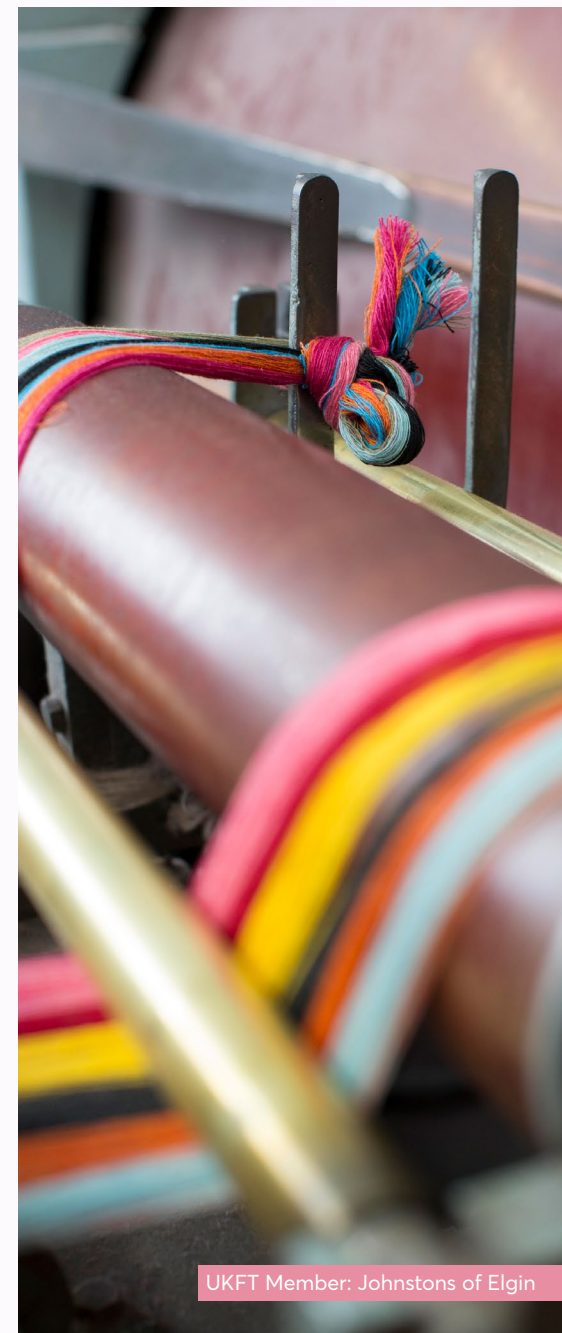
UKFT manages the government's Climate Change Levy scheme for the textile manufacturing sector and works with partners to help members access the best available energy efficient technology.

[The impact of Aftercare](#)

Over the life span of a textile product, aftercare represents up to 40% of its environmental footprint. With GINETEX, UKFT promotes the use of the Clevercare symbol to help consumers care for clothes.



UKFT Member: Töastie



UKFT Member: Johnstons of Elgin

UKFT Scotland

SCOTLAND'S GLOBAL ASPIRATIONS

Following the UKFT Scotland Industry Export Strategy, our focus is on exploring the industry's global aspirations and how we can drive companies in the sector to access the Government and UKFT support provided. The Scottish Governments 'A Trading Nation' export strategy has provided challenges for the sector, and we continue to work with SDI on the planning of collaborative activities and sourcing international opportunities for Scottish companies.

Following a year of restrictions due to the pandemic, in person activities continue to be on hold or delivered virtually and some funding has been diverted to business support provided by government agencies. UKFT Scotland has been keeping our industry up to date with the opportunities that still exist all be it in altered formats.

Following Brexit, UKFT has produced a number of business guides to enable our members to access new markets with FTA's or manage the changes that Brexit has imposed such as Rules of Origin. UKFT & the industry, through the ILG, are still keen explore opportunities that market and promote Scotland globally as the country of choice for sourcing sustainable high-end textiles.



UKFT Member: Joanne Yeadon

CONTEMPORARY SCOTTISH LIFESTYLE IN JAPAN AT PROJECT TOKYO

UKFT has worked closely with SDI on Project Tokyo that took place in a hybrid model in March 2021. We collectively took 13 Scottish companies to this show, the collections travelled but the companies were represented on the ground by SDI Tokyo and CPR Tokyo, a fashion consultant recommended by UKFT. UKFT also created a separate social media campaign promoting the group and the wider Scottish fashion and textile industry under the banner #contemporaryscotland.

Read more about the project here www.ukft.org/scotland/project-tokyo



INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP GROUP (ILG)

The ILG continues to meet in 2021 utilising virtual platforms to keep communication and activity aligned.

Key priorities of the textiles ILG are:

- Export
- Skills & Training
- Sustainability

Investment in all these areas is key to allow our industry to become internationally synonymous as the country of choice for innovative and luxury fashion, textiles and leather. Following the ILG review conducted by Scottish Government which recommends that groups have ministerial representation twice annually we have agreement that Ivan McKee, The Minister for Trade, Innovation and Public Finance, will attend to support the advancement of our key priorities.

As noted previously ILG subgroups will be created as required to provide smaller and concise working groups that can deliver industry insight and consultation on a tighter timescale. Currently there is a small skills sub group addressing concerns for the lack of access to sewing skills and CMT skills that have been highlighted to Scottish skills agencies for the past three years. We are now at a critical point where, due to Brexit and a lack of skills funding, the skills we require in Scotland are not available and we do not have a pathway for homegrown talent for the future. An opportunity to support the increased demand for Scottish fashion and textile manufacturing has been missed, this is affecting new business creation and existing companies to access the manufacturing they require and to fit with new rules of origin.



UKFT Member: Angel's Face

Get in touch

info@ukft.org

[@ukftorg](https://www.instagram.com/ukftorg)

www.ukft.org