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# Q3 report

SEPTEMBER 2022

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UKFT member: LONDON CONTOUR EXPERTS

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# Knowledge Leadership Opportunity

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# Contents

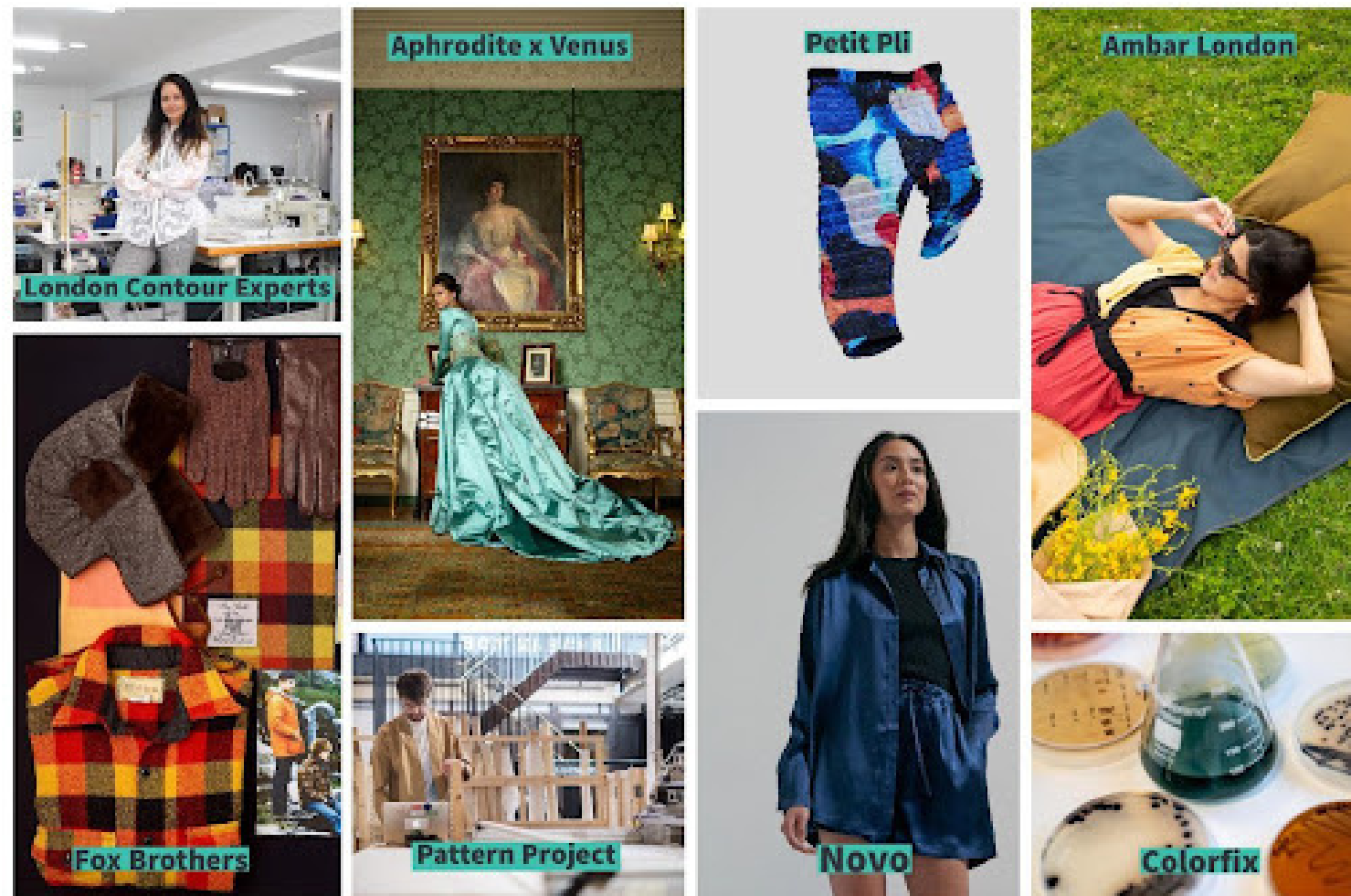
3	<u>Membership</u>
9	<u>Manufacturing &amp; education</u>
12	<u>International business</u>
15	<u>Skills &amp; training</u>
22	<u>Employment</u>
25	<u>UKFT Scotland</u>
27	<u>Innovation, R&amp;D &amp; sustainability</u>
30	<u>Government relations</u>

# Membership



# Membership

UKFT's membership continues to grow, welcoming notable new fashion and textile members including Belstaff, Strathberry, The Tartan Blanket Company, Camira Fabrics, Pattern Project, Snag Tights, Studio Nicholson, Kate Sheridan, Aphrodite x Venus, Arkdefo Futures, Awling and Novo.



## Showcasing the Unique Strengths of our Industry

We continued to share the stories of new and interesting businesses with our broad network, highlighting member successes to raise the profile of our sector and signposting sustainable and innovative developments.

- [Petit Pli to Open Store at Battersea Power Station](#)
- [Colorfix unlocks nature's pigments for the global dyeing industry](#)
- [Celebrating 250 years of Fox Brothers: Weaving without compromise since 1772](#)
- [ACS Clothing: Transforming the fashion industry to a circular model](#)
- [Aphrodite x Venus expands luxury eveningwear range to bridal clothing](#)
- [Ambar launches outdoor range for summer](#)
- [London Contour Experts design and product development consultancy](#)
- [University of Leeds partners with ice cream brand Magnum for sustainable fashion project](#)
- [NOVO timeless style for modern women](#)
- [S Dawes Weaving quality British fabrics in the heart of Lancashire](#)
- [The Natural Fibre Company achieves carbon reduction accreditation](#)
- [British Alpaca Fashion: Alpaca textiles grown, design and woven in the UK](#)

# UKFT member reception: Summer 2022



## Bringing Members Together and Creating Connections

UKFT held a member reception at the October Gallery in Bloomsbury, London, on June 30th 2022 to bring together a broad range of UK fashion brands as well as textile, garment and accessory manufacturers, retailers and government representatives. The evening gave our members the opportunity to catch up with old friends and to make new connections.

- *The next reception will be on December 1st 2022.*

# Business Support

## Sharing Opportunities

We continue to share a wide range of opportunities with our members. From gaining recognition and funding to exploring new markets, discover this quarter's updates:

- [Enter the Women in Innovation Awards 2022/23](#)
- [Zero Waste Scotland launches £2m Circular Textiles Fund](#)
- [Made Smarter West of England: Support and grants for manufacturing SMEs](#)
- [SMEs in Leicestershire: Support for new product development via PROSPER](#)
- [Help to Grow: Digital Scheme extends eligibility criteria and scope](#)
- [Scottish Highlands and Islands: The Young Business Capital Investment Grant fund](#)
- [Manufacturing partner wanted for The Trampery in east London](#)
- [Apply for Round 2 of DESIGN FUTURES 2022: Fashion District's Innovation Challenge Prize](#)
- [Made Smarter Adoption Programme: Boosting UK manufacturing growth across the North West](#)
- [Enter the Queen's Awards for Enterprise by September 2022](#)
- [Welsh Government announces £5m fund to support young entrepreneurs](#)

- [Fashion District hosts The Backroom Pitch: Pitching for Start-ups](#)
- [Applications for craft training funding reopen via QEST](#)
- [Lancashire manufacturing SMEs: Apply for a £3,000 Young Apprenticeship Grant](#)
- [Join the UK-China Fashion Industry Forum and Matchmaking in September](#)
- [Updated: Grants and support available for overseas fashion and textile tradeshows](#)

## Important Policy and Regulatory Updates

UKFT carries on keeping members abreast of the latest government updates for our sector. This quarter, these include the new Developing Countries Trading Scheme and the ongoing tightening of the legislation around marketing sustainability claims.

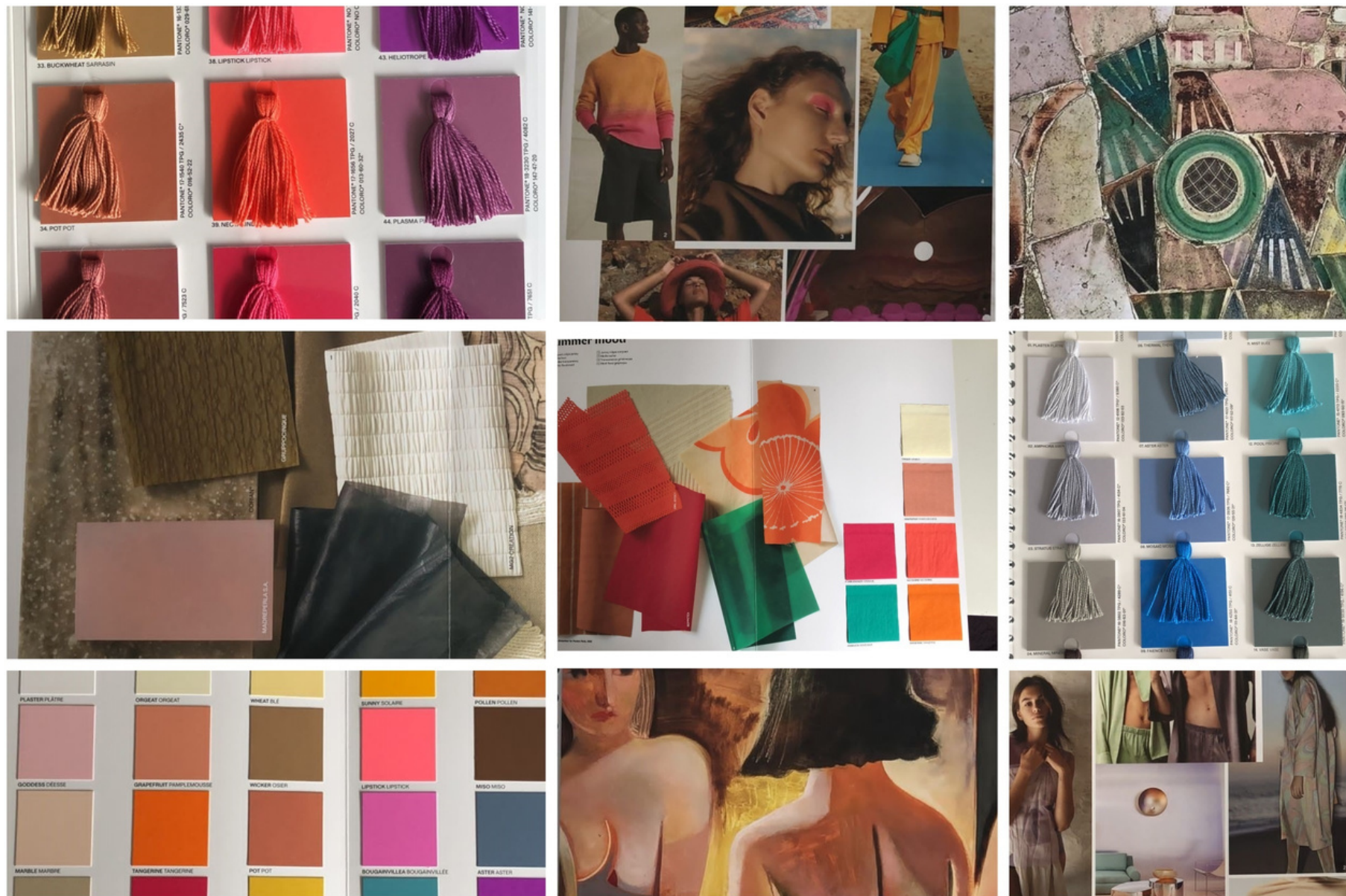
- UK launches new Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS) to replace GSP
- CMA investigates fashion companies over 'green' claims
- UK Government launches Scale-up visa for high-growth businesses
- HMRC urges businesses to move to the Customs Declaration Service

## New Resources for UKFT Members

Our library of resources available to UKFT members continues to grow. It now covers everything from HR and Employment, Terms & Conditions, Brexit, Guides to the latest Free Trade Agreements and Sales Support. Discover the latest updates below:

- UKFT "Made in Türkiye" or "Made in Turkey" labelling update
- Labelling rules in France covering environmental claims and Triman
- New labelling rules in Vietnam
- UKFT member discounts and guidance on ATA Carnets
- UKFT Report from Chicago Collective: August 2022
- UKFT Report from Première Vision Paris: July 2022
- UKFT Report from the Paris shows: June 2022
- UKFT Report from Pitti Uomo: June 2022

# Member benefits from associates and partners



## Protecting IP Rights in Greater China

We started working with a new associate member SIPS to support UK businesses trading in China. SIPS is an intellectual property (IP) consultancy and trademark agency, specialising in the protection of IP rights in Greater China, including the registration, enforcement and licensing of trademarks, copyrights and patents. Comprising a team of approximately 85 professionals and support staff, the firm has offices in Hong Kong.

[www.ukft.org/spotlight-sips-ip-china/](http://www.ukft.org/spotlight-sips-ip-china/)

## Peclers Colour Trend Information

As part of our continued relationship with Peclers, UKFT textile members can now access SS24 trend information while fashion members can access AW23 information, both by a physical copy of the trend book and the online portal.

[www.ukft.org/colour-trend-ukftmembers/](http://www.ukft.org/colour-trend-ukftmembers/)

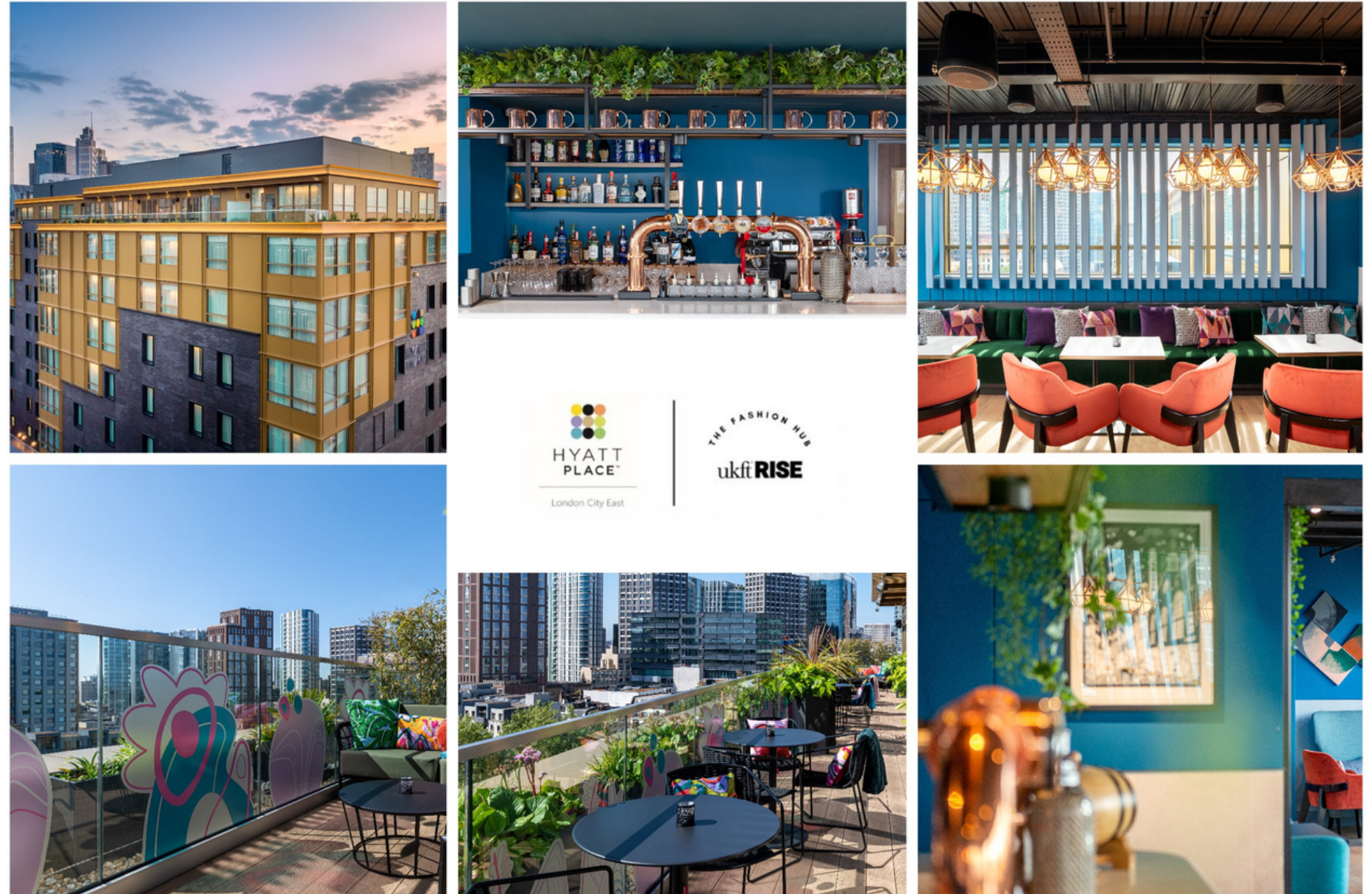


# UKFT Rise and Hyatt Place London City East Partnership

UKFT Rise has partnered with Hyatt Place London City East to create a Fashion Hub at the hotel to support and nurture the growth of fashion and textile brands within the UKFT Rise community.

UKFT Rise brands can access free space at the hotel to make new connections and meet current ones, showcase collections, hold business meetings and attend events and informative sessions hosted in partnership between Hyatt Place London City East and UKFT Rise (subject to availability).

Adam Mansell, CEO of UKFT, said: "UKFT is pleased to partner with Hyatt Place London City East to create The Fashion Hub, which can be accessed exclusively by UKFT Rise brands. We see The Fashion Hub as an inspiring and creative place for brands to meet with other fashion and textile entrepreneurs to spark new ideas and creative collaborations, as well as to share their vision with buyers, press and influencers. After a couple of years stuck behind screens, we're looking forward to bringing the UKFT Rise community together at Hyatt Place London City East, in the heart of East London – a thriving hotspot for emerging fashion brands."



[www.ukft.org/rise-hyatt-fashion-hub](http://www.ukft.org/rise-hyatt-fashion-hub)

# Manufacturing & Education



# Manufacturing & education



*UKFT member: A FORCE*

## Manufacturing Membership

Our garment manufacturing membership has continued to grow and new and recent recruits include Cilia Fox, London Contour Experts, Northumbria Healthcare Manufacturing & Innovation Hub and Pattern Project.

From direct communication with our members we have noticed that some have changed their business models to suit the needs of a changing marketplace. This includes offering more development-focused services, the introduction of digital software, selling off unused equipment and scaling back to what works for them.

## Education Partners membership

Our Education partners membership has now grown to include Westminster University and Bucks New University.

## MADE IT

UKFT's MADE IT scheme has been developed to promote technical manufacturing knowledge to universities.

5 universities have been involved in the 2021/2022 MADE IT programme. The scheme is currently underway with the following students undertaking internships with these businesses:

1. Huddersfield – Hannah Reid, BA Fashion Design with Textiles – Hand & Lock
2. Istituto Marangoni – Lucrezia Grazioli, BA Fashion Design - Mackintosh
3. UAL – Sumeya Ahmed, BA Fashion Design & Development – Victoria Beckham
4. Nottingham Trent – Abbie Shelton, BA Textile Design – Colorifix
5. Heriot Watt – Rebecca King, BA Fashion Design – Alexander Manufacturing

Each student receives £3,200 over the 8-week internship period, kindly supported by CapitB and Clothworkers.

# Manufacturing & education

## Drapers x UKFT Internship Bursary Programme:

Across the 3 universities below, 10 bursary internships have been granted for individuals to support their 12-week internship with fashion and textile related UK businesses.

- Huddersfield
- Nottingham Trent
- Winchester School of Art

Each student receives £1,800 over the 12-week internship period, kindly supported by the Worshipful Company of Drapers.

## The Internships Are as Follow:

- Huddersfield – Anya Carmichael, Ba Costume Design with Textiles – Opera North
- Huddersfield – Judith Shackman, Ba Fashion Design with Textiles – iinouio
- Huddersfield – Melissa Haram, Ba/Bsc Textile Practice – Skopos Fabrics
- Nottingham Trent – Alice Boulton, Ba Textile Design – Hermione De Paula
- Nottingham Trent – Isabella Longdon, Ba Textile Design – Walt Disney
- Nottingham Trent – Ellie Jones, Ba Fashion Knitwear Design – Victoria Beckham
- Nottingham Trent – Aiden Davey, Ba Fashion Knitwear Design – Chinti and Parker
- Nottingham Trent – Iona Balleny, Ba Textile Design – Fiona Blakeman Studios
- Winchester School of Art – Alice Dagget, Ba Fashion Design – The Well Worn
- Winchester School of Art – Annabel Cox, Ba Textile Design – Margo Selby

## Making for Change – Participant Futures Project

An industry project is underway with Making for Change, a social enterprise and commercial cut, make and trim (CMT) factory in Poplar, East London. It also operates as an education provider with a particular focus on providing skills and training in conjunction with HMP Downview, a women's prison in Surrey and local community outreach programmes in the East-London area.

Making for Change at Poplar promotes the continuation of individual education by offering stable forms of education, employment, income and support.

The project aims to develop the existing pipeline further into the industry. It does so by partnering with UKFT member Apparel Tasker, who operates a successful CMT manufacturing business that employs skilled operatives and who is also based in the Poplar area.

With this partnership, UKFT works to structure the skills pipeline by analysing processes, conducting interviews as well as reviewing and sharing findings with the industry. The project also includes observing what benefits the sector at large.

The project is currently in the closing stages and is being analysed and evaluated.



# International Business



# International Business



The UKFT Global Brands campaign continues to showcase and support UK fashion and textile businesses at international events. The latest updates were from menswear event Chicago Collective in August and textiles show Première Vision in July.

## Chicago Collective

UKFT visited the Chicago Menswear Collective in August 2022, for the first time in many years, to support British menswear and accessory brands and designers.

The UK Group included Alan Paine Knitwear, Baracuta, Barbour, Belstaff, Bennett Winch, Chrysalis England, Corgi Hosiery, Daines and Hathaway, Derek Rose, Fox Umbrellas, John Smedley, Johnstons of Elgin, Loake, Pantherella, Peregrine, Sanders UK, Scott and Charters, Tateossian, Ted Baker and Universal Works.

UKFT's Director of International Business, Paul Alger MBE, said: "The US and Canada are major priorities for UK companies, especially those manufacturing throughout the UK, and at times like these it is more important than ever that we invest in our commercial relationships with the UK's friends and allies."

A full report from the event is available to members, covering:

- The fast-moving tradeshow scene for US and Canadian buyers
- The history of the show and the market right now
- The look and feel of the show
- Italian promotion
- Feedback from UK companies which exhibited at the event
- Feedback from agents, showrooms and distributors representing UK brands
- Key conclusions from the show
- Plans for the future

[www.ukft.org/chicago-collective-report-august22](http://www.ukft.org/chicago-collective-report-august22)

# International Business

## Première Vision

UKFT worked with the Department for International Trade (DIT), Scottish Development International and The Clothworkers' Company to support the UK group at Première Vision, which took place in Paris in July 2022.

The UK group included Halley Stevensons, Samuel Tweed, Fox Brothers, Harris Tweed Hebrides, John Foster, Kynoch of Scotland, William Halstead, Linton Tweeds, British Millerrain, Alfred Brown, Ananas Anam/ Piñatex, Brisbane Moss, Maison Henry Bertrand and Bella Tela, as well as design studios such as Sourced Vintage, Design Union, Mirjam Rouden and Now Studio.

Première Vision also gave UKFT the opportunity to launch a UK responsible textiles campaign. Its goal was to highlight the innovation, heritage and sustainability of the UK textile industry with support from the Department for International Trade (DIT), Scottish Development International (SDI), The Clothworkers' Company and Campaign for Wool. Read more at <https://www.ukft.org/ukft-responsible-textiles-pv-july22/>

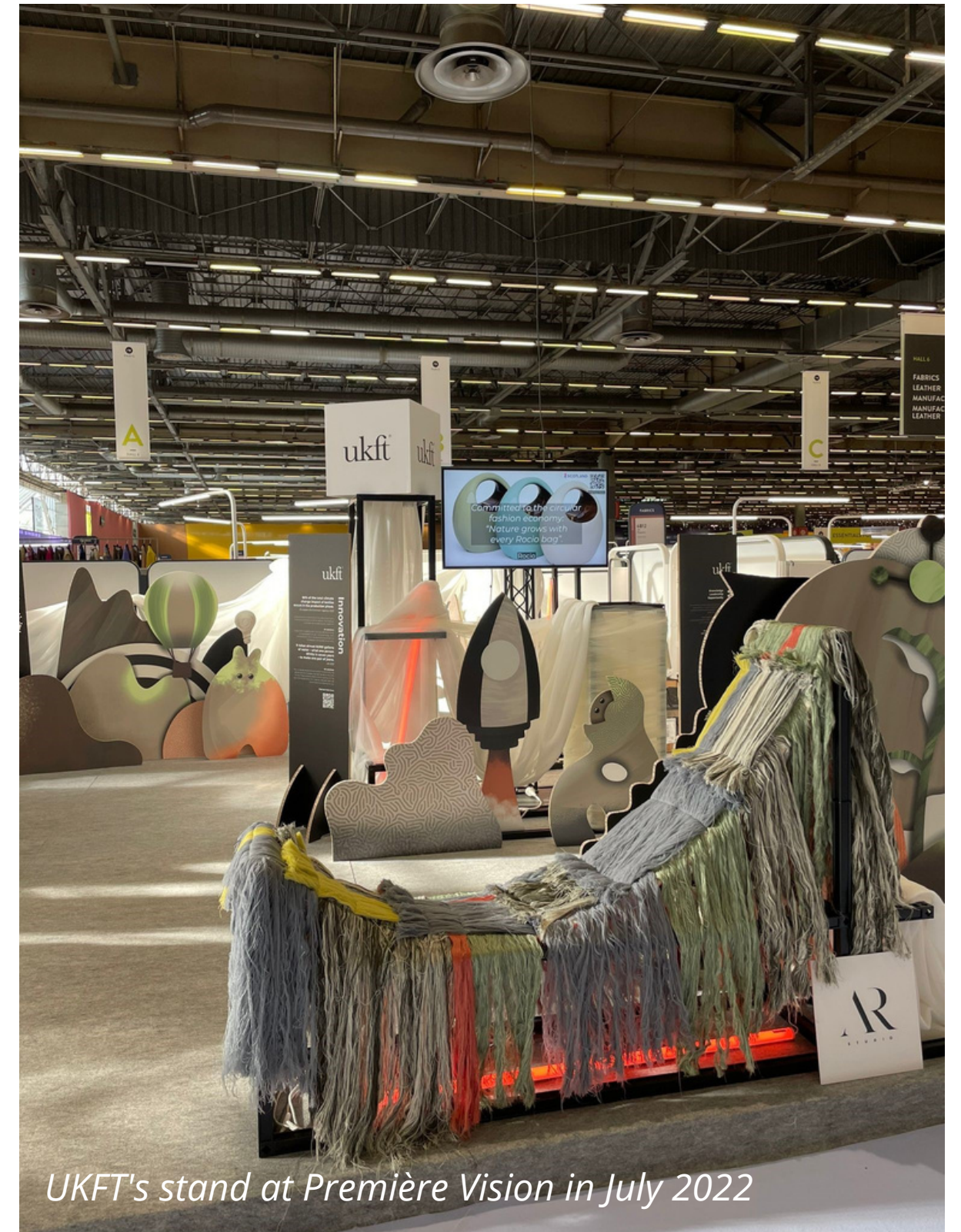
UKFT has produced a full report from the event, which is available to members and covers:

- Buyer attendance at the show
- Key figures
- Pre-show activity
- The UKFT stand and promotion
- Feedback from UK companies which exhibited at the event
- Key conclusions from the show

[www.ukft.org/pv-report-july22](http://www.ukft.org/pv-report-july22)

For all the UKFT Global Brands coverage, visit:

[www.ukft.org/ukftglobalbrands](http://www.ukft.org/ukftglobalbrands)



*UKFT's stand at Première Vision in July 2022*

# Skills & Training





# Skills & Training

## **UKFT Young Textile Technician Travel Bursary Fund for ITMA 2023**

UK textile companies can now apply for funding for young textile technicians to attend ITMA 2023 in Milan, as part of the new UKFT Young Textile Technician Education and Travel Bursary Fund.

As part of the new scheme, travel grants will be available to visit the next edition of the international textile machinery show ITMA in Milan in 2023. ITMA is the world's only exhibition to cover textile machinery used in the entire supply chain. ITMA 2023 will focus on advance materials and automation, a digital future, innovation technologies, sustainability and the move towards a greener planet and a more circular economy.

[www.ukft.org/yttf-itma-2023](http://www.ukft.org/yttf-itma-2023)

## **Occupational Traineeship Roll Out to Training Providers Nationwide**

UKFT has developed a new occupational traineeship for manufacturing sewn products job roles. The model aims to make candidates 'job ready' and reflects our industry's skill gaps and shortages. The qualification and training are fully funded by The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

It is the first type of training of this kind available for our sector. It should be available to school and college leavers in September.

[www.ukft.org/training-providers-occupational-traineeship](http://www.ukft.org/training-providers-occupational-traineeship)

# Skills & Training

## The Natural Fibre Company Training Supported by UKFT's Young Textile Technician Fund

Bethanie Jenkins, aged 26 and a trainee dye technician and mill operative at The Natural Fibre Company, and Emma Smith, aged 27 and a marketing support executive, have both received in-depth dye training, with support from UKFT's Young Textile Technician Fund.

The two young textile technicians completed the training with a Textile Consultant at The Natural Fibre Company's mill in Launceston, Cornwall, gaining a full overview of how to use the Roaches Pyrotec 8 – colour development laboratory recipe testing machine, to make solutions and dye recipes, as well as using the dyeing tanks.

[www.ukft.org/tnfc-yttf](http://www.ukft.org/tnfc-yttf)

## Rapier Maintenance Training at Milliken Supported by UKFT's Young Textile Technician Fund

Liam Booth, aged 23 and an engineering apprentice, and Josh Robinson, aged 29 and a loom technician (pictured below), have both received in-depth training on Dornier rapier weaving machines at Milliken & Company in Bury, with support from UKFT's Young Textile Technician Fund.

The two young textile technicians completed the training with Allertex at Milliken's factory to provide a full overview of the machines including shed settings, rapier maintenance, rack wheel settings, dialogue panel II menu navigation, back-up of dialogue panel II and testing of colour selectors on dialogue panel II.

[www.ukft.org/milliken-yttf-fund](http://www.ukft.org/milliken-yttf-fund)



UKFT's Young Textile Technician Fund supports training at The Natural Fibre Company and Milliken

# Skills & Training



## IfATE Visits Savile Row to Kick Off UKFT's Tailoring Apprenticeship Review

Senior representatives from the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) visited prestigious tailoring businesses on Savile Row in London, as part of the new UKFT-led review into the Bespoke Tailor and Cutter Level 5 apprenticeship standard.

Nikki Christie, deputy director of the business services division, Tina Bhambra senior assessment manager and Kirsty Woollaston, senior product manager in the Creative and Design route at IfATE, travelled to Savile Row to visit Anderson & Sheppard, Dege & Skinner, Henry Poole and Co and Huntsman and Sons Ltd, to see some of the best bespoke tailoring in the world. They were shown around by Su Thomas, Director of Savile Row Bespoke.

These businesses deliver apprenticeships and will form part of the Trailblazer group for the revision of the Bespoke Tailor and Cutter L5 standard.

[www.ukft.org/ifate-visits-savile-row](http://www.ukft.org/ifate-visits-savile-row)

# Skills & training

## Vocational Qualifications Updates and Reviews

We have been working in collaboration with the Skills and Education Group Awards (SEG) over the past six months to review our existing vocational qualifications (available for use in England, N. Ireland and Wales). We have identified the updated National Occupational Standards and Apprenticeship Standards. This ensures that our portfolio is up to date and this secures long term availability.

## Apprenticeships Scotland

The review of the Laundry, Wet and Dry Cleaning National Occupational Standards is underway and at a desktop review stage. First nations Steering Group meetings will start in September.

Three fashion & textiles Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) have been put forward for review

- *SVQ in Manufacturing Textile Products at SCQF Level 7 GK7T 23*
- *SVQ in Leather Manufacture at SCQF Level 7 GJ7J 23*
- *SVQ in Kiltmaking at SCQF Level 6 GA0A 23*

*Update:* UKFT has bid to lead on the SVQ reviews with announcement imminent.

## Apprenticeships England

*IfATE Route Reviews updates*

- Level 2 Textile Manufacturing Operative – The updated Trailblazer Group (10 employers guiding the review) is now being reviewed. Development work has started with a revised Standard and Assessment Plan ready to share in September.
- Level 5 Bespoke Tailoring Standard – Trailblazer Group is now confirmed with an additional group formed for independent reviews. There are eleven employers confirmed with a gender split of 75% women and BAME representation. Development work will start in September.
- Level 3 Fashion Studio Assistant Standard – This review has been suspended until October as recruitment to the reformed Trailblazer Group has been slow.

## Mending School in the Borders

UKFT has been supporting the possible creation of a mending school with Borders College. We have identified the 'Repair and Alter Items' SVQ unit as the base product. We have mapped the skills needed thanks to support from the Cashmere Circle and menders. UKFT has approached the Scottish Qualification Academy to agree on a unitised certification. After a final meeting with Borders College, UKFT and Cashmere Circle the College has agreed to set up a Mending School.

## Apprenticeships Wales

UKFT will update the Welsh Fashion & Textiles Apprenticeship pathway (L2, L3, L4) to include the new qualifications developed with SEG Awards. It is anticipated the updated frameworks will be finalised in September and available for use.

## Northern Ireland

UKFT will need to update the Fashion & Textiles Apprenticeship Frameworks (L2 and L3) to include the new qualifications developed with SEG Awards. Approval date for the new qualifications in NI is 1st September and the updated frameworks will be reviewed during September.

# Skills & training

## Greater Manchester Skills Boot Camp

The Skills Boot Camps is a government initiative that supports employed and unemployed people in many regions across the UK. It helps them access jobs and career opportunities and it helps businesses close skill gaps they are struggling to fill.

A proposal to deliver the first Fashion and Textiles Skills Boot Camp has been developed and submitted to Greater Manchester Combined Authorities. The bid and programme have been developed by Salford College partnership with UKFT and a group of Greater Manchester Employers.

The Boot Camps will enable funded delivery of UKFT's new Production Sewing Machinist Course across the region. The training is delivered by Salford College, over a period of 16 weeks.

The course content includes insights into the local industry, technical skills as well as knowledge and employability skills. Learners will be awarded the UKFT digital badges of achievement when they successfully complete the course and be guaranteed an interview with a local employer.

Skills Bootcamps form part of the Department for Education's (DfE) £2.5bn 'National Skills Fund', which is part of Government's wider 'Plan for Jobs'.

## Fashion and Textiles Occupational Traineeship Pilot ( GM & Lancashire)

UKFT has been working to deliver the Occupational Traineeship pilot. As part of which, a number of promotional activities took place in September in partnership with the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP), Blackburn College and others including:

- **8th September:** Meet the Employers Day. Delivered by Blackburn College, UKFT, Cookson & Clegg/Community Clothing, John Spencer Ltd, Plumbs, Essential Furnishings Ltd

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is promoting the sector and the Traineeship via additional events and on going promotion and recruitment support.

# Skills & training

## Specialist Developments Continued

### National Career Events

Planning and recruiting support for the three, high profile national career events is underway as follows:

- **Skills Cymru/Wales**, Motorpoint Arena, Cardiff- 19/20 October 2022
- **Skills Scotland**, Scottish Exhibition Centre, Glasgow- 2nd/3rd November 2022
- **Skills London**, ExCel London 25 & 26 November 2022

### HMPPS. Skills Delivery Strategy

As a UKFT member, Her Majesty's Prison and Probations Service (HMPPS) approached the UKFT Skills and Training team for advice and support. As result a draft strategy has been developed. That includes:

- Specialist training for both production instructors running on-site prison workshops
- PSM course delivery to offenders engaged in vocational learning and skills for life
- Development of a standardised training model across all prison workshops.
- Raising the profile of the sector internally, with staff across all levels and participating offenders.
- Working with Fashion and Textiles employers to identify job opportunities for ex-offenders following release

The draft strategy is currently under consideration by HMPPS.

### North Wales Training School

UKFT have been supporting the development of an initiative that will deliver the recruitment of a trained workforce in Wales.

A social enterprise has now been incorporated as a vehicle to enable the initiative to proceed and the first of 2 units have been secured in Wrexham. The units will house a training centre and production area.

The next stage is now being planned for the first intake of potential recruits. UKFT have helped to develop a five-day taster course to introduce and entice recruits to enrol on the full 16 week course, that will include delivery of the UKFT Production Sewing Machinists Course.



# Employment



# Employment

## Summary:

- The main queries received from members during this period were about pay rises and seeking information as to how other employers were dealing with these demands. A straw poll has indicated that companies cannot afford to compensate completely for the recent increases in the cost of living.
- An average pay increase appears to be settling between 3.5% and 5%, with some companies preferring to pay a one off “bonus” of between £200 and £500 which would not be contractual and would not attract future pay increases.
- Some employees have had difficulties attending work due to traffic problems occasioned by the hot weather and train strikes, and Members have queried their employees’ rights in such circumstances. There are no specific legal protections for workers in this situation but employers are expected to be “reasonable”. The greatest problem generally for managers in these circumstances is treating employees differently. An unsatisfactory employee may seize on these problems to avoid work, and the manager is tempted to use the disciplinary procedure, whilst another satisfactory employee’s word is accepted without question. This different treatment can lead to victimisation and/or discrimination claims. Two are already in the pipeline. Members are strongly advised to avoid this trap.
- With regard to the train strikes, some employees have asked to take part of their annual leave to avoid pay cuts, and some employers have suggested this. Employers can insist on leave being taken but must comply with the Working Time Regulations. For instance, if you want an employee to take 3 days leave you must give him at least 6 days’ notice. There may also be contractual rights issues.
- Most companies coped well with the hot weather issue by increasing breaks and providing cold drinks, but some problems arose with school closures leading to increased emergency leave.



# Employment

## Summary Continued:

- One covid related case has finally come to a conclusion. An employee refused to return to work immediately prior to the second lockdown and was dismissed. He claimed automatic unfair dismissal as he was in “imminent danger” by returning to the workplace. In other words a health and safety automatic dismissal. This was rejected. The Tribunal stated there were available in the workplace many measures by which he could have protected himself, ie social distancing, hand washing and sanitiser, and wearing a mask. We await other Covid related decisions with interest.
- The Code of Practice on Firing and Re-hiring is still awaited and we are now told this will be followed by regulation.

## Some Examples of Queries During the Period:

- Refusal to accept suitable alternative employment due to increased distance to travel. Could monetary compensation avoid redundancy payment?
- Are terms such as “dear” and “duckie” acceptable on the factory floor?
- Avoidance of notice pay when long term sick are unlikely to return to work
- The kind of proof required when employees claim they cannot get back from holidays on time
- Difficulty of team leader still wanting to work from home
- Whether refusal to work overtime after agreeing can be regarded as gross misconduct.
- Succession planning and difficulties re-discussion on retirement
- Race discrimination issues in relation to differences between Polish and English workers
- An employee walking out in a temper, resigning, and then rescinding resignation
- Maximum length of time possible between an incident and disciplinary hearing
- Line manager acting as both complaining and dismissal manager
- Last straw dismissal without any procedure.

# UKFT Scotland



# UKFT Scotland

## Industry Leadership Group (ILG)

Our Industry Leadership Group (ILG) met on the 24th of August with an agenda focussed on strategic delivery of skills and sustainability.

Nominations are being gathered from ILG members to create action based working groups. Groups will be constituted with employees at the 'coalface' rather than c-suite to propose and deliver accessible, actionable and fundable solutions to government.

## Skills

Adam Mansell and Ian Laird, ILG Chair, met with the CEO of Skills Development Scotland to discuss the communication between industry and the skills development agency. It was a positive interaction with the agency agreeing to find a solution to ensure the current skills crisis can be addressed with agility, flexibility and impact. The ILG working group will develop actionable interventions for the ILG to propose to Skills Development Scotland.

## Export

UKFT's stand at Première Vision was supported and partly funded by Scottish Development International. This funding provided a separate website, video, social media campaign and a drinks reception to promote Scotland to an international audience.

## Sustainability

Scottish Government and Zero Waste Scotland announced a Circular Textile Fund to the value of £2m. UKFT has worked closely with them to ensure the fund is fit for and accessible to the industry.

UKFT member: AVA INNES





# Innovation, R&D & Sustainability

# Innovation, R&D and Sustainability

## Call for UK Brands and Factories to Pilot Made-to-Order Production

We supported UKFT member Pattern Project in its call out for UK brands or factories that are interested in offering Made-to-Order Micro-MOQ garments to their customers from August to December 2022.

Pattern Project, based in South London, launched in April 2020 offering an alternative manufacturing process to fast fashion and has since partnered with UK brands such as Phoebe English and Roberts Wood. The company's unique process combines on-demand production with customisation and custom fit. Brands connect their website directly to Pattern Project's cutting machine, which means a customer can enter their measurements or customisation requirements and this will feed through to the factory for production.

Pattern Project has received grant funding from the London Mayor's Office and the Design Council to pilot this programme, which will run until the end of the year.

Pattern Project is looking to connect with like-minded brands that are interested in exploring the potential of on-demand manufacturing.

[www.ukft.org/pattern-project-call-out](http://www.ukft.org/pattern-project-call-out)



# Innovation, R&D and Sustainability



## Weaving Conference: 6th October 2022

The Weaving Conference is back in October 2022, uniting the industry to discuss the latest developments in technology as well as new opportunities.

While the last two years have been far from straightforward, the woven textile industry in the UK has continued to innovate and find new solutions to some of our sector's biggest challenges.

UKFT, in partnership with The Weaving Group, has assembled a line-up of insightful speakers from machinery companies including Picanol, Karl Mayer, Staubli and Itema. They will present their latest developments alongside informative sessions about topical and cutting-edge research topics. They will be joined by a number of representatives from leading UK weavers, who will share their experiences of putting new technological advances into practice.

## Speakers Include:

- Bob Harding, Managing Director of Vandewiele UK: 'Factory of the Future: Industry 4.0'
- David Barker, International Sales Manager at Cygnet Texkimp: 'It's all about the fibre – From creel to despatch'
- Professor Parik Goswami, head of the Department of Fashion and Textiles at the University of Huddersfield and Director of the University's Technical Textiles Research Centre (TTRC): 'Design Thinking and Innovation: Navigating the valley of Death'

[www.ukft.org/weaving-the-future](http://www.ukft.org/weaving-the-future)

# Government Relations



# Government relations

## Untapped Potential: Industry Research Project

UKFT has appointed Oxford Economics to undertake the research to quantify the economic value and contribution of the sector to the UK economy, and to support the industry to establish and achieve its 10-year vision.

Up-to-date and accurate data is central to unlocking opportunities for our sector. Information from the industry is also vital to building our economic models. We continue to urge you to complete requests for information and surveys to help us spearhead change for the industry – a change that will facilitate long-term, sustainable growth.

Oxford Economics is undertaking desk research of data, including from the Office For National Statistics. To support this, two surveys have been prepared. The first supports the assessment of the economic value of the industry. The second provides quantitative and qualitative data on the barriers hampering growth opportunities in areas including trade, skills, sustainability and innovation.

## Government Engagement

We continue to grow our relationships with government, both centrally and across the Devolved Administrations with the Northern Ireland Department for the Economy, Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Development International as well as with the Welsh government on skills and international trade

Our key focus has been raising the energy crisis, which has already had a profound effect on the industry and particularly in manufacturing. We also have been asking for support to ensure companies can manage this grave situation.

We have been successful in our application to join the UK Trade and Sustainable Development Domestic Advisory Group. Its purpose is to monitor and make recommendations on matters related to the Trade and Sustainable Development chapters in the UK's trade agreements with non-EU partners.

Our discussions with various departments continue. This includes our discussion about the potential textiles EPR scheme for the sector with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.



# Government relations

## Policy

A snapshot of areas that UKFT has been developing over the last quarter

### Pan-Euromed Convention

Continuing to build the case to the government that the UK should join PEM in order to simplify and add flexibility to Rules of Origin, which would make it easier for UK businesses to trade with the EU.

### Trade Programme

We have continued to recommend changes to be made in the new trade show programme. This would involve replacing it with a fit for purpose scheme through a variety of channels including direct to DIT, Export Partners UK, CITIB and CreativeUK.

### Wrap

Conversations with the Waste and Resources Action Programme have moved forward to define how Textiles 2030 can support textile manufacturing.

### IPO Design Rights Consultation

Government published its response to the Design Rights Consultation and announced that it recognised the fashion sector within its ongoing considerations on key issues, including simultaneous disclosure. Our response outlined the main points that could impact the UK fashion and textile sector and highlighted that post Brexit fashion brands are choosing to disclose in EU markets to gain broader protection. This could potentially put showcasing platforms such as London Fashion Week at risk. Therefore, the importance of ensuring simultaneous disclosure works as a means of gaining protection in both the EU and the UK.

### Samples / ATA Carnets

With reports of ongoing issues with movement of samples from the June show period, we are drafting a briefing paper and gathering further evidence. The DIT Policy Unit published a survey on ATA Carnets and the Fashion Industry, and so we are redoubling our efforts to open conversations on this issue.

### DCTS / GSP

The Department for International Trade recently published its policy position on the government's new Developing Countries Trading Scheme, an extension of the UK Generalised Scheme of Preferences. It simplifies existing rules of origins and cumulation for least developed countries. This makes sourcing fashion from countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia and Nepal much more attractive for UK brands and retailers. The scheme is set to come into force in early 2023 and we are continuing to gather further information as it becomes available.

### Free Trade Agreements

Detailed intelligence provided to government on negotiations on Swiss FTA, Canada FTA and India FTA

### Capital Allowance Regime Consultation

A response was made, asking if a new criteria could be added to the evaluation process for the Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECA). If there is a positive impact to net zero, then there should be inclusion in the list of ECAs.

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