



ukft[®]

What we've been doing on your behalf

UKFT Q3 2024

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Update from UKFT CEO, Adam Mansell

I'm delighted to share some highlights of our work during Q3 2024 that demonstrates our ambition to build a stronger UK fashion and textile industry.

We're thrilled to welcome new members from all parts of the supply chain, including material innovators, fashion and textile manufacturers, testing houses, designer brands, educators and retailers.

Our goal is to highlight the strengths of our industry and keep you informed about the latest industry trends, updates and insights. To help showcase just some of the great work happening, our president, HRH The Princess Royal, visited textile group SIL Group in West Yorkshire and fashion manufacturer ApparelTasker in London. Our team has also had the pleasure of visiting many of you over the past few months, learning about your latest projects, and discussing the challenges and opportunities you face.

We've been supporting members with everything from compliance, labelling and sustainability through to helping companies develop export strategies. We also hosted webinars on key topics like REACH legislation, opportunities in India and EU sustainability laws.

We've published new guides on international dyeing technology, exporting to Canada, trading with South Korea, and avoiding greenwashing in line with the latest Competition and Markets Authority guidelines.

On the global stage, we continue to support UK brands at major international tradeshows and events through our Discover British Brands and Textiles campaigns, ensuring the UK fashion and textile industry is well represented worldwide. Most recently, we have supported UK companies at events including Paris Fashion Week, Chicago Collective and Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics.

As part of our commitment to promote the wealth of careers, employers and training opportunities available in the UK fashion and textile industry, we work with local industry, training providers, schools and recruitment organisations to deliver an annual series of career events and job fairs across the UK. Our current programme is underway and we've already showcased our sector at events in Exeter, Edinburgh, Derby, Huddersfield and London.

Lastly, sustainability and innovation are top priorities for us. We're actively involved in large-scale projects aimed at tackling some of the industry's biggest challenges.

One of our main goals is to unite the industry for collective action and collaboration. A highlight this quarter was hosting the Sustainability Conference at Drapers Hall in London, focusing on textile waste, Extended Producer Responsibility and recycling.

Keep reading to learn more about these exciting initiatives and feel free to get in touch out if there are further ways we can help you. Thank you for your ongoing support!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Mansell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Membership



Membership

UKFT offers a wide package of practical advice and technical support to businesses across the supply chain as part of our membership services.

This quarter we were delighted to welcome a wide range of new members including: Achilles Ion Gabriel, Bath School of Design, Calyx Cotton, Centre for Sustainable Design, College of Master Kilt Tailors, Dubs Universe, Fab Materials, Fibe, Juicy Bumbles, Kaeruskin, Kenneth Mackenzie, Layer Clothing, LK Bennett, Magee Weaving, Minnessak, Morning Marvels, Nikolo Bertok, Nile & York, North Lane Group, O Pioneers, Obe, Obikels Creations, Post Carbon Lab, Revolve Denim, Rumi, Scottish Textiles Showcase, Sequinova, Shirley, TOVE, Vivien Lauren and Wildness.

BUSINESS SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS

We continue to share a wide range of opportunities with our members, from gaining recognition to exploring new markets. Engagement from and with the membership continues to grow. Attendance at our webinars is higher than ever. Q3 updates include:

- Her Royal Highness visiting UKFT members Apparel Tasker (London) and SIL Luxury Fabrics (Yorkshire) in September and October.
- Visiting member facilities throughout the UK.
- Providing in-depth assistance on compliance, labelling, sustainability, export paperwork and international market legislation.
- Holding webinars on a wide range of topics including updates on REACH legislation, the use of forest-based products, opportunities in India, an update on EU sustainability legislation and a session on tools to help with environmental due diligence.
- Producing new guidance on developments in international dyeing technology, exporting to Canada, the impact of GPSR, trading with South Korea and an update on the new CMA guide to greenwashing.

- Helping fashion brands, designer labels, and textile companies develop export strategies and identify routes to market.
- Promoting a broad range of member news and updates.
- Highlighting funding, awards and opportunities, including the Golden Shears Awards, The King's Award for Enterprise, London ReWear grants and more.
- Hosting the Sustainability Conference to discuss a textile EPR and textile recycling.
- Offering advice on international tradeshows and showrooms.
- Supporting members alongside our associate members with expertise in colour trends, international logistics, energy, ATA Carnets, legal issues and IP.
- Facilitating partnerships and collaborations between manufacturing members and Education Partners.
- Launching access to the SS26 Colour Forecast with Peclers.
- Visiting key UK and overseas tradeshows including Pure London, SCOOP!, Source, Wonderland, Preco in Paris and Texhibition in Istanbul.



UKFT Member: Splash About



UKFT Member: TBCo

Membership

COMPLIANCE

UKFT provides advice and guidance on compliance to members from across the UK fashion and textile supply chain. This includes support with:

- **Global Labelling Compliance** (including translations and GINETEX licensing): Advising members how to meet the labelling requirements of the countries they sell, target or distribute into, encompassing care labelling, safety and warning labelling, environmental labelling (such as EPR), state law labelling (filled/stuffed articles) and certification labelling.
- **Global EPR obligations:** Supporting members with global packaging and textile EPR requirements including data reporting, making payments and labelling where required.
- **Product Testing** (chemical, performance and safety): Advising members on chemical and safety testing for their distribution markets.
- **Performance and safety standards:** Recommending adherence to relevant performance and safety standards to support members in reducing customer complaints and returns and potential product recalls.
- **Supply Chain (Trade) Compliance:** Assisting members with import and export rules to reduce trade costs where applicable and prevent customs delays. Supporting members with extra paperwork required for some countries, such as certificates of conformity that may require passed testing reports from accredited testing houses.

Events

UKFT SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE: TACKLING TEXTILE WASTE

On 26 September 2024, we returned to Drapers Hall in London for the third edition of the UKFT Sustainability conference. It was attended by over 240 delegates from across the UK fashion and textile supply chain encompassing retailers and brands such as Burberry, Harrods, John Lewis, Lipsy, Matalan, Pentland Group, N Brown, Marks & Spencer, Tesco, government departments like DEFRA, recyclers such as Roberts Recycling and Textile Recycling International, compliance and sustainability leaders, universities and more.

This year's conference covered:

- Establishing an industry-led Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme for clothing and textiles
- The policy landscape and other EPR schemes in the UK and Europe, in particular electricals and packaging, and in France and the Netherlands
- Brands including M&S, John Smedley and New Look discussed their participation in the EPR Data Sandbox project
- The challenges and opportunities of having good data
- The UKFT-led **ACT UK project**, which aims to develop and pilot a pioneering fully-integrated, automated sorting and pre-processing demonstrator for waste textiles (ATSP)
- An update on post-consumer waste textiles collection trials, with insight from M&S, Oxfam, Tesco, Salvation Army Trading Company and more
- The opportunity for textile recycling in the UK
- Solutions beyond waste management including designing out waste, rental, reprocessing and repair

UKFT Sustainability Conference, September 2024



Events

In the post-event survey, 100% said they found the event useful and 100% would attend another event in 2025.

FEEDBACK:

"Beautiful venue, inspiring content, key people in attendance"

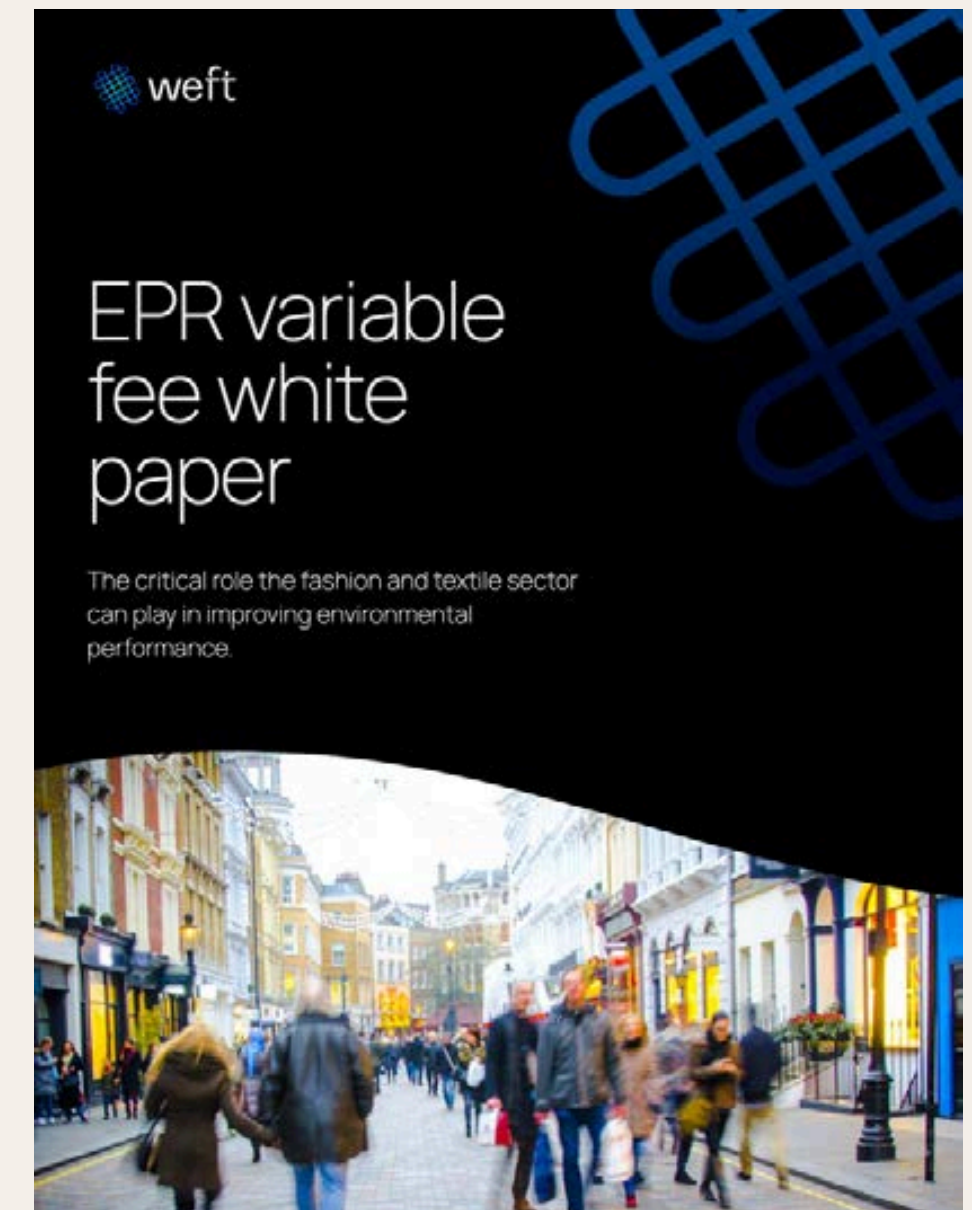
"Good variety of speakers, presentations, panels and Q&As"

"Informative and able to keep up to date with latest trends"

"Clearly set out themes, good presentations and great discussion"

"The event presented both early/mid stage concepts as well as real and practical solutions"

UFKT, QSA Partners, the British Fashion Council (BFC), the British Retail Consortium (BRC) and several luxury, fashion and retail brands have produced a new White Paper urging the Government to implement variable Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) fees immediately to drive sustainability and establish a circular economy in the UK fashion and textiles sector. The White Paper emphasises the need for immediate government action to enable a more circular economy and create a variable EPR textile scheme that works for all key stakeholders.



White Paper on EPR



Government Relations



40th celebration of London Fashion Week at 10 Downing Street

Government Relations

UKFT has been active in building relations with the new government and has written to both the Prime Minister and the Secretaries of State for the Department for Business and Trade (DBT), the Department for Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Department for Education (DfE) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), to outline the industry's demands:

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

- Restore business support
- Make Brexit work
- Join the PEM convention

SKILLS & EDUCATION

- Unlock funding for specialist training
- Support SME training
- Teach making skills at school

SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION

- Develop industry-led EPR scheme
- Establish national textile recycling infrastructure
- Reintroduce effective R&D tax credits

UK MANUFACTURING

- Commit to UK-made public procurement
- Establish capex grants for UK manufacturing
- Reinstate UK VAT refund scheme

UKFT has already been asked to provide input on several policy areas where the Government is reviewing its stance, and we have been advocating for a different approach. These include:

- UK wage and immigration policy
- A new UK industrial strategy and a new trade strategy
- Relations with the EU and opportunities for a simplifying trade during the renegotiation of the UK-EU trade agreement
- UK free trade agreements with countries such as India and ongoing negotiations with Turkey, South Korea and Canada
- UK VAT Refund Scheme
- UK Agency Legislation
- UK and EU De Minimis Rules

In addition, UKFT:

- Attended a reception at Number 10 Downing Street to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of London Fashion Week.
- Has been asked to prepare a brief for DEFRA on compliance in the industry
- Continues to chair the DBT Skills Committee for manufacturing
- Is a member of various DBT Trade Policy forums
- Is a member of the DBT Luxury Goods working group

UKFT has met with:

- Creative Industries Council.
- Welsh Government for both skills and international trade.
- DfE/DCMS to discuss changes to the apprenticeship levy.

Skills & Training



Skills & Training

UKFT is the Sector Skills Body (SSB) for fashion and textiles. Our activity is focused around addressing critical skills gaps and creating industry-led solutions to ensure that the UK fashion and textile industry remains competitive on a global stage. We help fashion and textile businesses to attract, train and retain the best people, as well as promote careers and opportunities to the next generation of talented workers through UKFT Futures and our careers campaigns.

We are increasingly focused on developing new vocational and academic routes into industry that meet the needs of business, such as the online production sewing machinist course, the work with HM Prison Service or the new BSc in Textile Technology at the University of Leeds. Through our schemes like MADE IT and the Drapers Bursary scheme, we also bring together education and industry to ensure graduates have relevant experience and knowledge to enter the workplace.



Skills & Training



UKFT RECRUITMENT & CAREERS CAMPAIGN

UKFT is promoting the wide range of career paths available in the fashion and textile sector, from pattern cutting to leather craftsmanship, buying through to textile design, at a series of job fairs and careers fairs across the UK. We have invited with local employers, hiring managers and recruitment consultants with live vacancies in the sector to promote their roles and tell new entrants more about the sector.

Our 2024 schedule is as follows:

Job fairs:

- Exeter, Sandy Park Stadium, 4 September
- Huddersfield, John Smith Stadium, 6 September
- Derby, Pride Park Stadium, 11 October
- Edinburgh, Tyne Castle Park Stadium, 30 October
- Bristol, Ashton Gate Stadium, 8 November
- Leicester King Power Stadium, 29 November

Careers events:

- Saracens (the Stonex Stadium) in North London: 8 October
- Kia Oval in south London: 5 November
- Salford City Stadium Manchester: 13 March 2025
- National career guidance show event, London, March/April 2025

Westminster University, Westminster Kingsway College and Fashion Enter are delivering hands-on activities, as well as representatives from the leather industry.

Exhibits have been contributed by employers from a range of subsectors including footwear, technical textiles, automotive, medical textiles, and fashion/clothing.

Skills & Training

SPECIALIST DEVELOPMENTS

Production Sewing Machinist Programme (PSM)

UKFT's PSM programme covers everything from industrial sewing techniques and best-practices, essential knowledge on quality, costs, efficiency, materials and machines, health and safety, working relationships and employability skills. Designed to be flexible, the programme allows learners to fit the training around busy schedules as all courses are pre-recorded.

The course has now been completed by 26 learners, with more than 60 currently undertaking the programme in addition to 20 tutors. New course content is under development.

HMPS PSM PROJECT

UKFT is working with HM Prison Service to deliver the PSM course to trainers in prisons.

- A third HMPS PSM Instructor training course in will be held on November 2024.
- 18 learners have been registered to date.
- A quality assurance process has also been set up, with UKFT offering an annual external moderation event.



Skills & Training

UKFT BURSARIES

UKFT will provide £225,000 of bursary funding in 2024 across four funded programmes:

University of Leeds BSc in Textile Sustainability and Innovation:

This course was established with support and evidence from UKFT. UKFT is managing a multi-year funding programme, provided by a group of Livery Companies, to support entrants to the course. The first cohort started in September 2024. 10 UK students are receiving funding to support with academic and living costs. UKFT will follow the students as they progress through the degree as well as help deliver industry speakers and placements.

MADE IT:

The programme is designed to enrich the production and sourcing knowledge of graduates and to illustrate the wealth of technical and creative roles throughout the supply chain. The scheme offers undergraduates a production and sourcing masterclass and 10 funded placements annually within a production environment thanks to the generous support of the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers and CapitB.

This 23/24 Made It programme is currently underway with five partner universities.

- Winchester School of Art
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- University of Westminster
- Heriot Watt University
- Nottingham Trent University

The 10 internships are currently ongoing with companies including:

- Lyle & Scott
- Sirplus
- Peagreen Studio



Samuele Ricchiuti, a second-year BA Fashion Design student at the University of Westminster, during an internship at leather specialist Nosakhari, supported through MADE IT

Skills & Training

UKFT NEW TALENT BURSARY:

Previously known as the Drapers x UKFT internship Bursary Programme and now incorporating additional support from the Weavers Company. This is designed to break down the financial barriers that can limit fair access to industry placements. The bursary enables 15 students annually to take up placement opportunities they may otherwise struggle to afford thanks to generous support of The Worshipful Company of Drapers and The Worshipful Company of Weavers. We are now trialling the delivery of placements within Further Education.

The 2023/24 Programme is in partnership with the following Education Partners:

- Nottingham Trent University.
- Winchester School of Art.
- Northumbria University.

The 15 internships are currently ongoing with companies such as:

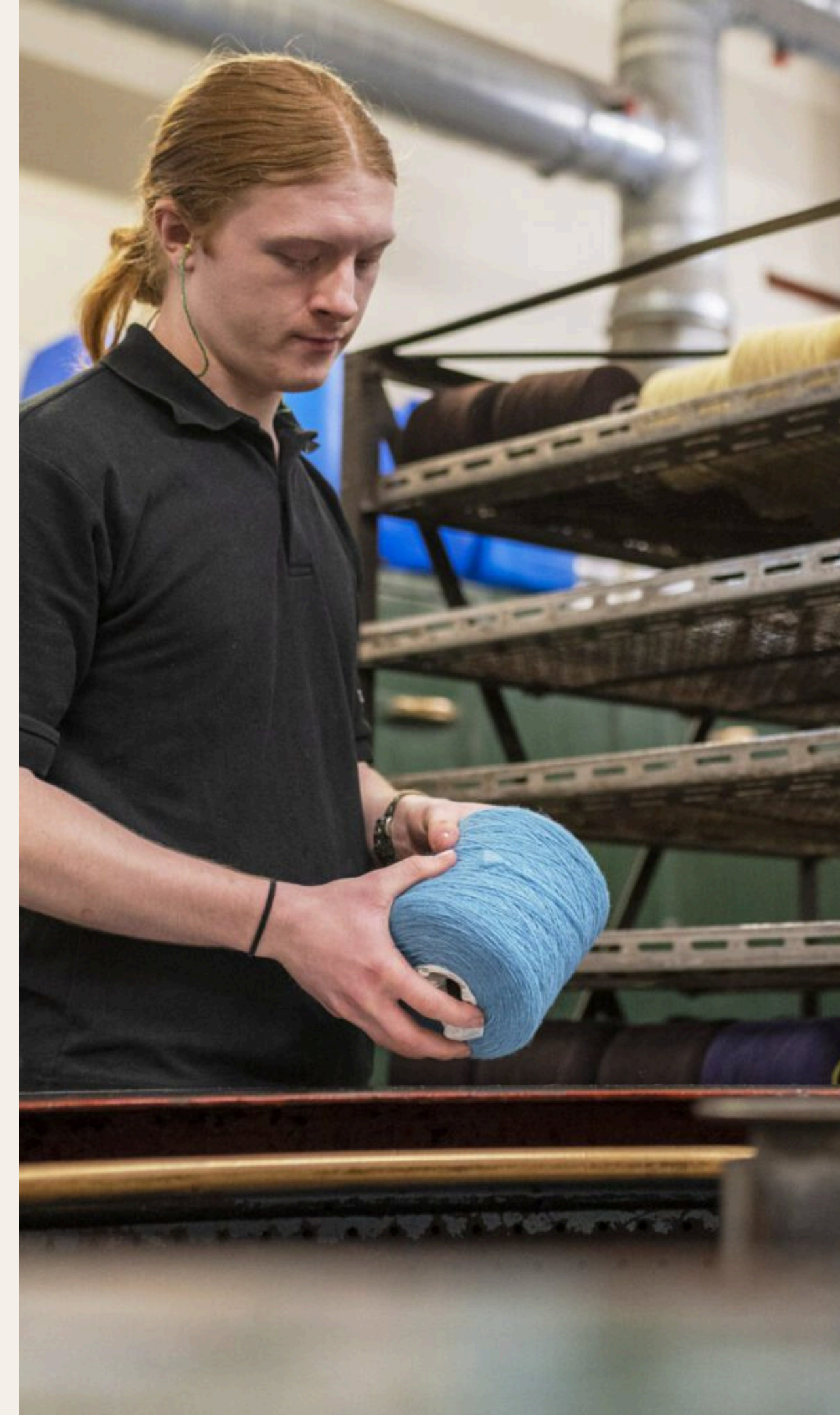
- Barbour.
- New Balance.
- Minnessak Bags.

YOUNG TEXTILE TECHNICIAN TRAINING FUND

UKFT's Young Textile Technician Fund is designed to allow businesses across the UK to train their young textile technicians. 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.

Recent beneficiaries:

John Spencer, Pennine Weavers, Bowmer Bond Narrow Fabrics, Knockando Wool Mill, Knitster London





Innovation & Sustainability



Innovation & Sustainability

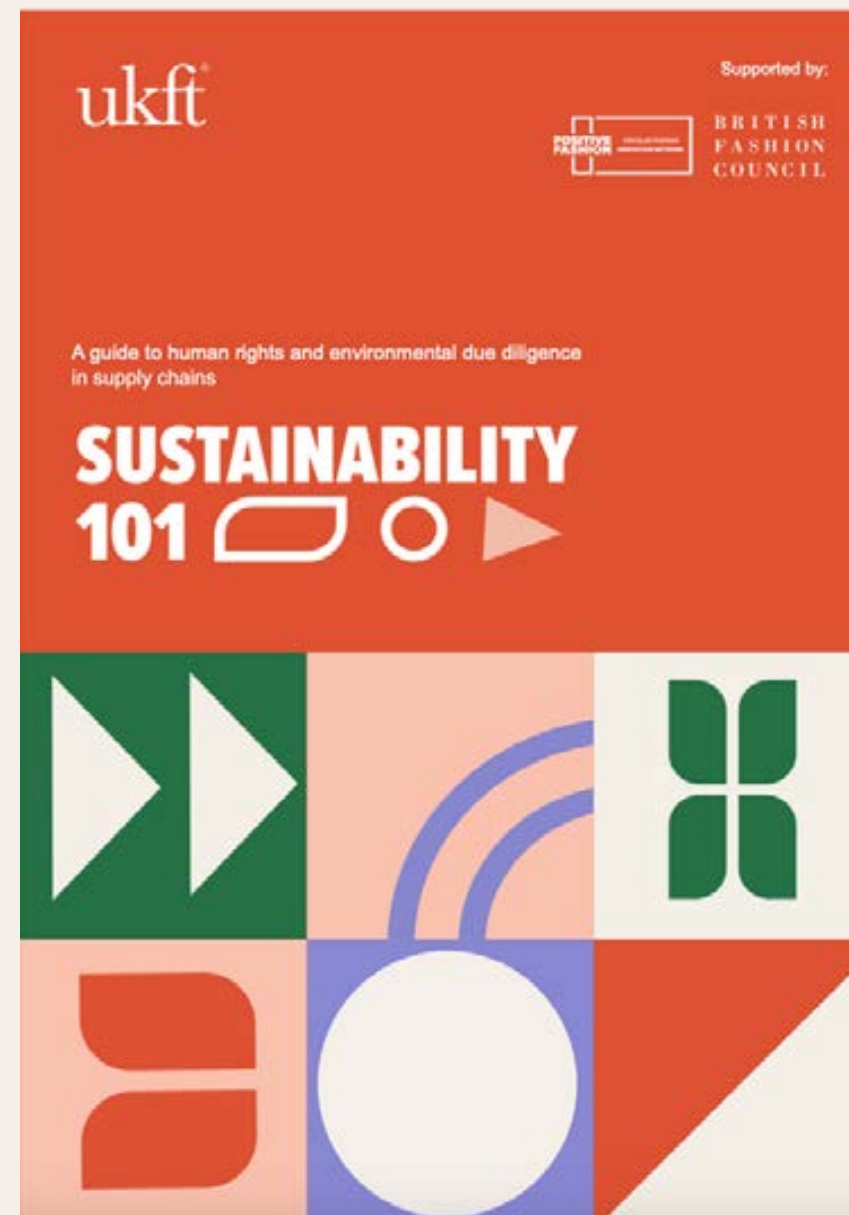
SUSTAINABILITY 101 SERIES UPDATE

UKFT's Sustainability 101 Series of guides and webinars delves into the core principles of sustainability and what it means for our industry. This quarter, we focused on supply chain due diligence, with a special emphasis on environmental aspects. We hosted a webinar on upcoming EU sustainability laws that will impact UK businesses, and introduced the topic of Chemical Compliance.

We published the "UKFT Guide to Due Diligence in Fashion and Textile Supply Chains." This guide explains global legislation related to due diligence, modern slavery, and forced labour. It helps businesses understand their legal obligations and how to meet human rights and environmental due diligence requirements.

NEW ADDITION: THE SUSTAINABILITY 101 COMMUNITY ON LINKEDIN

In response to frequent questions from the series, UKFT has launched a LinkedIn group for ongoing discussions and knowledge sharing. The S101 Community will first be available to webinar attendees in Q3 and later open to all members.



Innovation & Sustainability

NETWORK+

The £7 million university NetworkPlus project embeds research into the development of solutions that will support the fashion and textiles sector to transform into sustainability.

NetworkPlus is made up of three networks: Back2Baselines, Impact+ and Future Fibres. UKFT chairs two of the three Advisory Boards and also chairs two of the three investment panels. UKFT also chairs the overarching PCT committee that co-ordinates work across the three networks.

In addition, UKFT is also participating in a range of research projects in the Network+ programme.

- Together with the University of Leeds, UKFT will undertake a research project on the 'Material Flow Analysis of the non-clothing textiles economy in the UK'
- UKFT and Manchester Metropolitan University are undertaking research on 'data standards, legislation and DPP
- UKFT, University of Leeds and ReLondon will start work on a project called: "Unlocking the potential of post-consumer textiles to drive textile reuse and recycling in the UK: assessing post-consumer sorting, grading and feedstock requirements among textile reuse and recycling stakeholders". The purpose of this project is to map sorting and grading criteria for post-consumer textiles, based on product types, quality, and end-market requirements. The results will help qualify and quantify existing and future infrastructure capabilities and identify opportunities to retain and process post-consumer textile waste domestically



Innovation & Sustainability

CIRCULAR FASHION INNOVATION NETWORK

CFIN is a project co-chaired by UKFT and the British Fashion Council, supported by Innovate UK. UKFT leads on the sustainable manufacturing and textile recycling infrastructure pillars.

CFIN celebrated its one-year anniversary in October with the launch of the 'CFIN Interim Report 2024: One Year of Convening, Listening and Testing'.

Adam Mansell, CEO of UKFT, said:

"After a year, we've made some real progress and taken practical steps forward, but more importantly, we've brought together all parts of the supply chain. This isn't just about solving the challenges in our sector – it's also about creating new opportunities for growth, efficiency and sustainability across the whole industry."



Innovation & Sustainability

Textile Recycling Infrastructure

CFIN is focused on building effective infrastructure and partnerships to optimise textile recycling processes, as well as laying the foundations for extended producer responsibility (EPR).

The objectives are:

- To reduce environmental impact in the fashion and textiles supply-chain with a focus on post-consumer and post-industrial textiles.
- To identify infrastructure, market capacity, commercial viability, technology, workforce and skills gaps and opportunities to develop a national textile recycling infrastructure plan.
- To support circular policy targets.

Progress:

During the past quarter, UKFT has focused on bringing together stakeholders across the textile recycling supply-chain under three key areas:

- **UK Textile Recycling Capacity:** UKFT has consulted UK textile recycling stakeholders and reviewed the global, especially European, textile recycling landscape to identify gaps and opportunities for expanding recycling capacity within the UK.
- **Post-industrial textiles:** UKFT held a 'Circular Manufacturing' workshop in July, attended by several UK textile and apparel manufacturers outlining their current strategies to manage post-industrial waste.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility:** UKFT has launched a competition among its SME members to participate in a three-month EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) project, as a continuation of the EPR Sandbox work.

Sustainable Manufacturing

CFIN is focused on supporting the industry to reduce environmental impact and waste from manufacturing processes from the production of apparel and textiles by 2025, and to achieve to Net Zero by 2050 globally.

The objectives are:

- Reshoring for real – exploring volume manufacturing in the UK: through apparel manufacturing parks, network manufacturing through tech and sustainable finishing machinery in denim.
- Enhancing existing UK manufacturing capacity: through automation and robotics, compliance requirements and guidelines and promotion of UK sustainable manufacturing.
- Decarbonising manufacturing: a focus on science and technology innovations in the textile dyeing stage, and zero-waste practices in apparel and textile manufacturing.

Innovation & Sustainability

Progress:

As part of the **Reshoring for Real work** package, UKFT has developed two pilots:

- Implementing innovative AI technology within a Leicester-based manufacturing facility in partnership with Manny AI (formerly 'Pattern Project') and Asos
- Denim finishing Near Shore Pilot with Laundry and River Island

UKFT also held two separate workshops (one with UK manufacturers and one with UK brands/retailers) to develop a **Minimum Compliance Requirements** guideline (both social and environmental). The findings and recommendations will be reviewed by compliance expert and published in a report.

A UK Manufacturing Code of Conduct: We will be consulting with an industry group in November, participants will represent retailers, brands and textile and garment manufacturing.

A new UK Manufacturing Database: UKFT will consult with the industry and explore a UK Manufacturing Code of Conduct and an accompanying manufacturing Database.

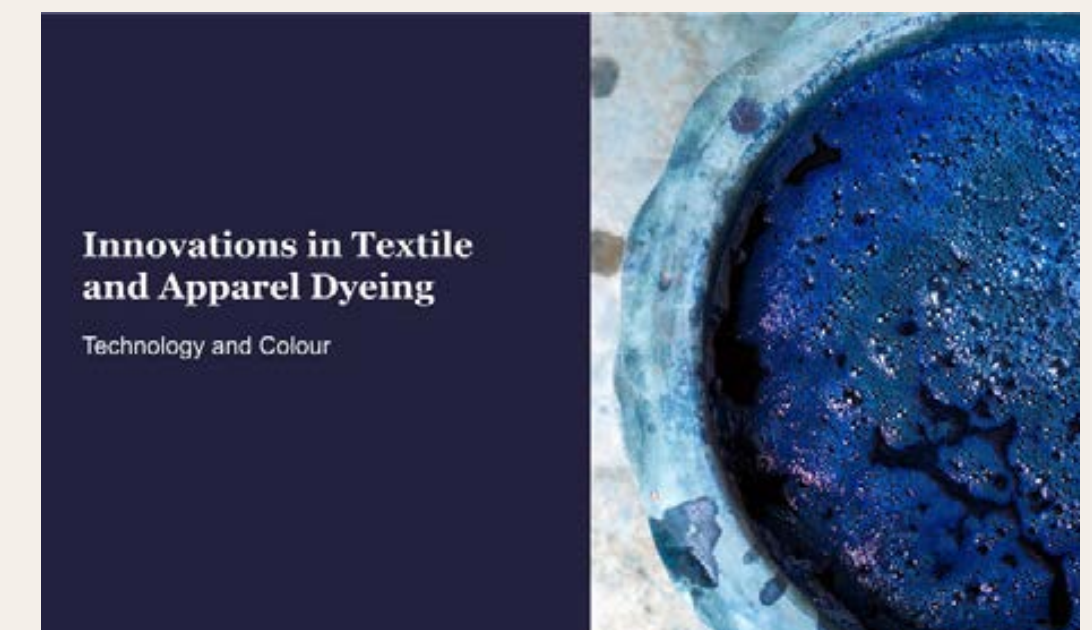
Automation & Robotics

UKFT launched a survey on automation and robotics for the fashion and textile industry following the workshop organised with the Robotics Living Lab in May, during which fashion and textile businesses/organisations were introduced to robotic integrator firms. There was also a workshop to explore how they might use robotic processes, collaborative robots and agile tooling within their studio or a micro or SME factory setting. The White Paper with the key results will be launched in November.



Decarbonising manufacturing

As part of the decarbonising manufacturing work package, UKFT published a "Science and innovation in textile dyeing" report in collaboration with The Manufacturing Technology Centre.



Innovation & Sustainability

AUTOMATED SORTING FOR CIRCULARITY IN TEXTILES – ACT UK

UKFT is leading a £4 million project to develop and pilot a pioneering fully-integrated, automated sorting and pre-processing plant for waste textiles (ATSP).



Key progress includes:

- **New Collection Trials:** Initiated trials for post-consumer textile collection, including a postal return trial with Reskinned, a local engagement trial in Kirklees, a consumer behaviour study with Dunelm x SATCOL, and an in-store trial with Crisis.
- **Technology and Process Development:** Completed reports and trials for Emerging Technology Readiness, Gripper Technology (for automated sorting), and developed a new trial for 'Disruptor Removal' technologies.
- **ATSP (Automated Textile Sorting Plant) Preparation:** Finalised the Conceptual Engineering Design, Regulatory Impact Assessment, and socio-economic analysis to support the business case of the ATSP.
- **Recycling Supply Chain Trials:** Achieved substantial progress producing 100% post-consumer textile wool yarn ready for final manufacturing.
- **Market Analysis:** Generated a profile of the current and future volumes of non-rewearable textiles in the UK.





International Business

International Business

TRADESHOW ACTIVITY

In August UKFT accompanied 43 menswear and textile companies to the Chicago Collective. The show was well attended by the majority of US and Canadian multi-brand independents and companies reported that they were still doing good business in the US, in spite of concerns over the US economy and the political uncertainty surrounding the US presidential elections.

UKFT showcased textile swatches and bunches from a group of UK textile mills and designers at Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics in August. Intertextile is now the world's largest textile and yarn show and while Chinese suppliers dominate the show, the UK and Italy were well represented at the show.

UKFT was delighted to be featured at a reception hosted by HM Consul General to Shanghai to launch the new bunches from Huddersfield Fine Worsted in China. HMCG thanked UKFT for facilitating the event and making the introductions.

UKFT also represented a group of more than 120 British brands showing at Paris Fashion Week, a key commercial marketplace for high end fashion. The British designers combined their creativity and passion for business to offer some of the more luxurious and creative collections in Paris this season.

UKFT created a map to help buyers and the press locate UK brands and designers exhibiting in Paris.



Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics (August 2024)

SOURCING

In order to help buyers understand the sourcing opportunities in nearshore markets, UKFT visited the Texhibition textile show in Istanbul in September and will be leading a sourcing mission to Morocco in November. Participants include a number of UK retailers and brands.



Paris Fashion Week (September 2024)

International Business

GENERAL EXPORT ISSUES

There is a worrying trend of multi-brand department stores in the US de-risking their business by cancelling wholesale orders and insisting that UK companies use their marketplace platforms on different terms. Moving forward, unless brands are financially very robust, and have US logistics and registered companies for tax in place for the US, they will not be able to afford to commit to the new terms.

This season, many fashion companies have been undermining their wholesale business by undercutting independent retailers and agents abroad. They are offering significant discounts on their own platforms, especially during sale periods, which hurts their wholesale partners that paid higher prices and can't compete. This can lead to wholesale networks unravelling and a loss of business in key overseas markets. Although it's challenging to fix once it happens, we've discussed this issue with several members and suggested ways companies can discount safely without harming their long-term partners.

Brexit remains a major challenge for most companies with issues around unexpected tax and duties still an issue for companies who are not getting the paperwork right. We are also receiving reports of a number of fast parcel services which are still not getting this right, with additional duty attaching to transactions which should be duty free.

Greenway Logistics will be travelling to the UK at the end of October to meet with members to discuss EU and global logistics.



Discover British Brands in Paris, September 2024



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