



- Press Release -

World Famous Cashmere Company awarded for their commitment to Young People

Johnstons of Elgin, the iconic international cashmere and tweed specialist, has been recognised for its commitment to employing young people, by being rewarded with the Investors in Young People (IYP) accreditation today (12 June).

An initiative from Investors in People Scotland, the IYP scheme is supported by £1 million funding from the Scottish Government and to mark the occasion Angus Robertson MP, the SNP's Westminster Group Leader, was in attendance presenting Johnstons of Elgin with the accolade.

The MP commended Johnstons for its commitment to young people and its strong focus on creating employment and training opportunities. In recent years, Johnstons of Elgin has heavily invested in establishing opportunities for young people at the organisation and this includes the launch of their Modern Apprenticeship programme, in which over 80 apprentices are currently qualified or in training.

Johnstons of Elgin has demonstrated its commitment to employing young people, reflecting the company's fundamental purpose of striving to nurture enthusiasm and redefining mastery. The company have previously been awarded SDS Youth Employer of the Month and have created a dedicated Training Centre in their Hawick mill in located in the Scottish Borders.

Speaking at the presentation, Angus Robertson MP said: "Achieving Investors in Young People accreditation for Johnstons really means marrying the traditional with the modern - the traditional weaving skills that are to be found in their iconic woollen mill, delivered through modern apprenticeships by enthusiastic young people building their career.

"The Investors in Young People Award marks both the commitment of the more than 80 young apprentices and the commitment of Johnstons as their employer to giving them the best opportunities and getting the best from them in return."

IYP, Scotland's only people management award focusing on employers' recruitment and retention of young people, originated through a key recommendation from the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce, led by Sir Ian Wood. Offered to all businesses across Scotland, the award recognises and supports organisations in the employment of young people.

Peter Russian, Chief Executive of Investors in People added: “Johnstons of Elgin has really raised the bar with their application and accreditation - we were extremely impressed by their commitment to their young workforce. This is a fantastic achievement for them and I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the organisation. The Investors in Young People framework not only recognises and supports organisations in the employment of young people, but marks them out as an employer of choice. The benefits of recruiting and developing young people are countless. These include the creation of a talent pool for the future, new and increased skills, fresh eyes and mind-sets into business operations along with enthusiasm and unique talents.”

Willie Wood, Group Hr Director at Johnstons of Elgin, said: "I am extremely proud that Johnstons of Elgin has been able to lead the way in providing modern apprenticeship programmes, becoming one of the most iconic companies in Scotland to be awarded the Investors in Young People accreditation.

“Achieving this award demonstrates our unwavering commitment to young people and is a culmination of our proactive and strategic approach to increasing the number of young people in our workforce, providing them with high quality apprenticeship and sustainable employment.

“Youth employment is a key pillar of our business plan and I am delighted that our work in this area has been recognised in this way.”

For further information about Investors in Young People, please visit:

<http://www.investorsinyoungpeople.scot/>

Ends

12 June 2015

For further information please contact Stacey Bridges or Rachel Moreland at Weber Shandwick on sbridges@webershandwick.com / rmoreland@webershandwick.com or 0131 556 6649.

Notes to editors:

Images:

About Investors in Young People

- Investors in Young People offers a practical, flexible and easy to use tool to assist in the recognition and support in recruitment, training and retention of young people.
- The Investors in Young People framework responds to a need to bring young people into the workplace and the difference in recruitment, support, management and development that young people require.