

**MAPPING OF UK SUPPORT SCHEMES****Appendix 1****Summary of Deliverers****Department of Trade and Industry**[www.dti.gov.uk/support/textile.htm](http://www.dti.gov.uk/support/textile.htm)

DTI and Government more widely, provides a range of help and assistance for the textiles and clothing industry. The Textiles and Clothing Unit within the Consumer Goods and Services Directorate has provided support for activities as diverse as investment, supply chain management, technical textiles, design and branding, training and development and e-commerce. Full details of these can be found on the website. Many of these activities involve collaboration with industry for example:

- **The Textiles and Clothing Industry Forum**

A programme developing projects to promote best practice to improve the performance of the industry across the supply chain

- **The Portobello Business Centre “ Building the Business of Fashion”**

A training course providing business skills training for designers and including one-to-one consultancy advice

- **London Fashion Week**

Providing support through the British Fashion Council to help up and coming young designers to stage their catwalk shows and exhibit at the event.

**British Fashion Council**[www.londonfashionweek.co.uk](http://www.londonfashionweek.co.uk)

The British Fashion Council is one of the organisations that serve the British Apparel and Textiles industry. It was created in 1993 to oversee and bring harmony to the London fashion exhibition scene and in particular, to London Fashion Week (LFW). It established the Designer of the Year Award and British Fashion Awards, now known as the British Style Awards. It has also developed strong links with the top UK fashion design colleges through its Colleges Forum, and seeks to encourage links throughout industry through its various committees. These include:

- **The London Fashion Week Advisory Committee**

Considers application from designers wishing to exhibit at LFW or to be included on the show schedule and considers applications for New Generation designer sponsorship

- **The International and UK Buyers Committee**

Provides input into the organisation of LFW

- **The Press Committee**

Provides feedback to the BFC on LFW and the British Style Awards

The BFC and DTI have collaborated on a number of initiatives including:

- **The Designer Fact File**

A reference book to help designers set up in business

- **The Designer Manufacturing Handbook**

A best practice guide and directory of UK manufacturers, aimed at developing relationships between manufacturers and designers for the mutual benefit of both

### **Business Links (see also Small Business Service)**

[www.businesslink.org](http://www.businesslink.org)

Business Link (BL) is the National business advice service, operating in 45 locations across England. Each BL has Business Advisers who are able to provide advice in a range of areas including the following:

- **Funding and grants**
- **Employment and related regulations**
- **Starting a business**
- **Contacts**
- **Conferences and workshops**

Business Advisers with a background in textiles and clothing can be found in the London, North Nottinghamshire, Leicester and Northamptonshire BLs.

International Trade teams who provide the Trade Partners UK services (see below) also sit within BLs.

### **Small Business Service (See Business Links)**

[www.sbs.gov.uk](http://www.sbs.gov.uk)

The Small Business Service (SBS) runs a range of initiatives designed to help small businesses to be more innovative, secure finance, make use of expertise from colleges and other organisations, improve business-to-business transactions and measure and improve efficiency. Some of the SBS services are delivered through the BL network and these include the following:

- **The Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme**

Guarantees loans from the banks and other financial institutions for small firms that have viable business proposals but who have tried and failed to get a conventional loan because of lack of security

- **The Ethnic Minority Business Forum**

Advises Ministers on helping ethnic minority businesses to grow and succeed

- **The Small Business Research Initiative**

Encourages smaller businesses to participate in Government research contracts

- **The Phoenix Fund**

Encourages entrepreneurship in disadvantaged areas

- **The SBS Business Incubation Fund**

Helps small business to access incubation funding

### **DTI Government Offices in the Regions (See also Regional Development Agencies)**

[www.government-offices.gov.uk](http://www.government-offices.gov.uk)

DTI is represented in each of the nine regions by the Government Offices. Regional offices support and work with the Regional Development Agencies and other stakeholders to deliver national policy and objectives. The DTI textiles and clothing regional contacts can signpost to clothing, textile and footwear activities and sources of funding in their local area. A list of these contacts can be found on the DTI website [www.dti.gov.uk/support/textile.htm](http://www.dti.gov.uk/support/textile.htm)

### **Regional Development Agencies**

[Individual website addresses can be found on the Government Office site address above](#)

Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) are the lead bodies at regional level for co-ordinating inward investment, raising people's skills, improving competitiveness of business, promoting sustainable and economic development and social and physical regeneration. They are funded by the Government Offices and are responsible administering:

- **Regional Selective Assistance**

A discretionary grant that provides assistance for projects with expenditure over £500,000 and which will create or safeguard employment in assisted areas. Most manufacturing businesses are eligible to apply for the grant.

- **Devising strategies** aimed at improving the regional economic performance of the region through the **development of specific programmes** and the delivery of these thorough local business support organisations e.g. **London Fashion Forum, Designer Forum in Nottingham.**

**Trade Partners UK**  
[www.tradepartners.gov.uk](http://www.tradepartners.gov.uk)

Trade Partners UK (TPUK) is part of British Trade International, the Government body with lead responsibility for fostering competitiveness by helping UK companies to secure overseas sales and investments, and for attracting high quality foreign direct investment in the UK. Publicity, a self- assessment checklist, UK suppliers database, sales leads on line service are provided as part of the range of TPUK services which also includes:

- **Research International Markets**

**Tailored market Information Reports** on the prospects for products, service or potential investment and contact information on potential overseas partners. Financial help for detailed market research through the **Marketing Research Scheme** and free advice to help develop a market entry strategy for sales service or investment.

- **Support for Exhibitions and Seminars Abroad**

Financial support for companies to exhibit at overseas trade fairs enabling them to test markets, attract customers, appoint agents or distributors, meet wholesalers, carry out research and make sales. Similarly, overseas seminars allow sector representatives to make presentation to an invited audience. Support is delivered via UK sponsors such as Trade Associations who are responsible for recruiting a viable group of companies to participate at overseas events. **The Export Explorer package** provides a similar service for companies interested in Western European markets.

- **Outward Missions**

Both practical and financial help for UK companies travelling abroad as part of a group to markets outside Western Europe to promote UK good and services. Again support is delivered via UK Trade Associations who are responsible for recruiting a viable group of companies to participate.

- **Export Promoters**

Experienced industry drawn business advisers, who are able to provide support and advice for companies in specific overseas markets. Textile and Clothing Export Promoters for Japan and Southern and Western Europe are in place.

There are a wide range of business support organisations providing services, help and advice for textiles and clothing companies and some of these are listed below. Email addresses have been provided where websites do not currently exist.

**Electronic Market Squares**  
[www.londonfashiononline.co.uk](http://www.londonfashiononline.co.uk)

An online designer/manufacturer directory

**Ethnic Minorities Enterprise Programme**

[www.emep.co.uk](http://www.emep.co.uk)

Provides business support services to ethnic minority led businesses in Tower Hamlets

**Fashionworks**

[Email:doreen1367@aol.com](mailto:doreen1367@aol.com)

Provides design consultancy, market research and forecasting services

**London College of Fashion**

[www.lcf.linst.ac.uk](http://www.lcf.linst.ac.uk)

Alongside its specialist fashion courses, it supports fashion design businesses and fashion start-ups through training and development programmes. Its **Curtain Road Technology and Manufacturing Centre** houses Computer Aided Design and specialist finishing equipment for either traditional or enhanced production.

**London Fashion Forum**

[Email:info@londonfashionforum.com](mailto:info@londonfashionforum.com)

Co-ordinates the range of business support in London. Provides help and advice for companies in the region and undertakes a range of initiatives including: A **Necessary Accessory event** showcase for fledgling accessory designers and an **Asian Dreams event** showcase for Asian textiles and clothing and jewellery companies.

**Nottingham Designer Forum**

[Email:enquiries@hanger.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@hanger.co.uk)

Provides a range of services including manufacturing incubator units, trend forecasts/publications and business development seminars, workshops and graduate events.

**Sew East**

[Email:jennifer@emep.co.uk](mailto:jennifer@emep.co.uk)

Offers one-to-one specialist advice, business support, grants for exhibitions and trade shows, marketing and PR support.

**Waltham Forest Fashion and Design Centre**

[www.fdec.co.uk](http://www.fdec.co.uk)

Offers Computer Aided design training, software and equipment, and an exhibition and display facility.