

NEWS RELEASE

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Kettle supports local economy by recruiting former Tullis Russell staff

Local companies in Fife have been thanked by the Fife Task Force for their support in helping find employment for those affected by the closure of the Tullis Russell manufacturing plant in Glenrothes.

In the nine months since the closures were announced it is estimated that 404 of the 477 employees have found alternative work.

The loss of so many jobs would be a major blow to any area and local Fife companies have been very supportive to date in helping find opportunities for those seeking new employment.

Lucinda McAllister Service Manager Economy Planning & Employability Services at Fife Council said:

“The Fife Task Force is a great example of how partnerships between all agencies can benefit the local economy while meeting the needs and aspirations of our clients and employers, such as Kettle Produce”.

Cupar-based Kettle Produce Ltd, a major supplier of fresh produce to UK supermarkets and one of Fife’s largest employers, recruited 11 employees from Tullis Russell following the closures.

John McGregor, Head of Human Resources at Kettle Produce said:

“The recruits from Tullis have already made an important contribution to our business, including at management and team leader levels. Opportunities Fife was very helpful in the recruitment process and I’d urge local employers to consider such options as part of their recruitment process. There are obvious benefits for local economies and local communities if skilled labour can be retained locally.”

Two of the new recruits are now employed by Kettle in Human Resources and PA roles.

Charlene Duffy, HR Advisor with Kettle added:

“As one of the many employees affected by the closure of Tullis Russell, my CV was passed onto Kettle Produce at the career event that was organised by PACE and held at the Balbirnie House Hotel in May 2015.

“Kettle Produce had opportunities at that time within the HR Department, and after going through the recruitment process, meeting with the HR Team and finding out more about the company and its vision and values, I was very excited about the role and the opportunity to join the team at Kettle Produce.

KETTLEproduce Ltd

“Fortunately for me, I was successful in being given the role of HR Advisor and have been in this position for nine months. I am thankful to Kettle Produce for giving me this opportunity and I am excited to see what the future holds for me at Kettle Produce.”

Lisa Bradley, PA at Kettle Produce concluded:

“After 30 years of my working life, I was devastated at the closure of Tullis Russell. Having only ever worked there my confidence was extremely low about my ability to seek alternative employment. I heard of a temporary post available at Kettle Produce to cover maternity leave and sent in my first ever CV!

“I was thrilled when I was offered the position and settled in really well. The thought of having to look for another job when my contract was finished was now not so daunting. However, I was delighted when I was offered a permanent role within Kettle Produce, and, almost a year on from the closure of Tullis Russell, I am once again happy to be part of a close knit team working together to take the company forward.”

-Ends-

Media contacts:

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Notes to editors

PACE (Partnership Action for Continuing Employment) is co-ordinated by Skills Development Scotland at a national level providing tailored help and support for individuals at risk of, or experiencing, redundancy.

Created by two Scottish farming families in the 1970s, Kettle Produce remains family owned and is one of Fife’s largest employers with an average monthly staff of 934.

Kettle produces 100,000 tonnes of fresh root and green vegetables and salad crops each year from its sites at Orkie near Freuchie, and Balmalcolm near Cupar.

In addition to Kettle Produce España SL a joint venture based in Murcia, Spain, the company operates several strategic supply partnerships with major growers in England, France, Spain and Portugal covering more than 6,000 hectares.