

New networking forum launched

In August the first Nigel Wright North East Food and Drink Manufacturers HR lunch took place at Bistro 21 in Durham. The event, which is attended by HR Managers from leading food and drink companies in the region, is the first of its kind.

The North East is home to various manufacturing sites for major global food and drink companies and the idea behind this event was to bring together key HR personnel to discuss their experiences of working for global businesses in the region and share best practises in terms of HR policy.

Companies represented at the lunch included Refresco, Tetley, KP Foods (United Biscuits), Daniel's Group, Walkers and Kavli - all of whom are globally owned businesses responsible for some of the most well known food and drink brands.

The topics of discussion focused on salaries, production challenges, culture and environment, trade unions and employment brand – the latter of which has been a particular area of focus for HR Managers at companies that have had ownership changes in recent times.

Rachel Ovington of KP Foods commented "Being part of the Food Manufacturers HR network provides a great opportunity to meet up with HR colleagues who encounter similar challenges in order to share experience, local knowledge and best practice to ensure that we all continue to develop within the North East HR community."

Nigel Wright Senior Consultant Sue O'Donovan noted that the intimate format of the lunch meant attendees were able to discuss challenges in a relaxed and informal setting and this is the intended arrangement for future events.

HR leaders in the food and drink manufacturing sectors, interested in attending future networking events, can contact Nigel Wight at hrevents@nigelwright.com.