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Cambridge jeweller blazes a trail

Jeweller Harriet Kelsall.

12:00 PM

A Cambridge jeweller has become the first independent company in the UK to be certified by the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC).

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Harriet Kelsall Jewellery Design, in Green Street, is one of just 45 companies around the world with RJC certification.

They are companies that are committed to operating responsibly to improve ethical practices in the jewellery industry.

Earlier this year, the Cambridge firm also became one of the first jewellers in the UK to work in Fairtrade gold.

So it is now the only company in the world to be certified by the RJC and licensed to use Fairtrade gold.

Managing director Harriet Kelsall said: "I am absolutely delighted that we are the first independent UK business to be certified by RJC.

"I was a very early member of the RJC and have long supported what they have been doing. I was keen to be involved to help ensure that smaller jewellery businesses don't get left behind."

Michael Hoare, chief executive of the National Association of Goldsmiths, said: "The last decade has seen considerable change in the jewellery sector.

"Many more miners, raw material processors, designers and jewellers want to act responsibly and ethically, and with due respect for the planet and the people that populate it.

"The RJC is the first to bring an integrated certification scheme from mine to retail, and Harriet is in the vanguard of UK retailers achieving that standard."

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