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Press Release – For immediate release

Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham
3rd June 2013

Press Release

Sarah Champion MP calls on Rotherham food and grocery businesses to join industry campaign to support young unemployed

Sarah has called on local food and grocery businesses to sign up to an industry campaign to support young unemployed people in Rotherham.

Feeding Britain's Future will see thousands of unemployed young people from across the country go into farms, factories and stores for free skills training and Sarah wants businesses across Rotherham to get involved so that hundreds of youngsters in the area can reap the benefits.

Following the success of Feeding Britain's Future "Skills for Work Week" in 2012, the Institute of Grocer Distribution has launched the 2013 campaign in an effort to tackle local youth unemployment.

During September businesses across the industry's supply chain will open their doors to provide free skills training such as CV workshops and interview role-plays for thousands of people in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Some of the UK's largest firms are already signed up to take part.

Last year 70 businesses participated, in 700 locations covering every region in the UK. In 2012 the campaign provided 10,000 skills training opportunities with 98% of participants saying they felt more confident applying for a job.

Working in partnership with Jobcentre Plus the national campaign unites the entire food and grocery industry in an effort to tackle youth unemployment.

Sarah Champion MP said:

"Rotherham has some fantastic food and grocery businesses and this campaign is an opportunity for them to offer important skills training to those who need it most. For the local young unemployed to get maximum value from this scheme we need as many food and grocery businesses in the area to sign up."

Joanne Denney-Finch OBE, Chief Executive of IGD, said:

“The food and grocery industry is Britain’s largest private sector employer, accounting for one in seven of all jobs, employing 3.7m people. It is an industry in which it’s possible to start from the bottom and get to the very top – even with very few qualifications.

“For the month of September we want as many companies and organisations as possible to offer some pre-employment training. Even if you can just provide one session lasting a couple of hours and providing a few hints and tips on interviews, or a CV workshop – it all counts.”

If young unemployed people are interested in Feeding Britain’s Future, they should ask at their local Jobcentre Plus.

Businesses interested in taking part can find out more at www.igd.com/feedingbritainsfuture

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For interviews, images or further information please contact:

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Notes to Editors

Get involved:

Businesses interested in taking part should visit: <http://www.igd.com/our-expertise/Feeding-Britains-Future/Register-your-interest/>

About IGD:

IGD is the leading source of information and best practice on the consumer goods industry worldwide. It aims to inspire positive action through information. IGD offers unparalleled understanding and insight, developed from extensive research programmes on global business issues and an ongoing dialogue with shoppers.

About the food and grocery industry:

The grocery industry is the leading employer in the UK. It provides more than 3.7m jobs – that’s 14% of UK employment, or one in every seven jobs. There are more than 400,000 businesses in the UK food chain from start-ups to some of the largest global enterprises. 55% of employers will expand their training and development budget between now and 2020. In farming alone, there are around 316,000 farm businesses in the UK, providing 531,000 workforce jobs. Two-thirds of all new jobs are created by firms employing fewer than 100 people.