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Double award win for Checkatrade.com

Checkatrade.com scooped 'Sussex Company of the Year' at the **2013 Sussex Business Awards**, held at Brighton Dome on Thursday 5th December and presented by TV personality Rachel Riley.

In a double win, the firm won the **National Payroll Giving Excellence Awards 'Best SME Campaign'** just days earlier at HM Treasury in London. Hosting the ceremony was Nick Hurd MP, Minister for Civil Society and Nicky Morgan MP, Economic Secretary to the treasury.

Sussex Company of the Year is awarded to the most outstanding business in the region. Competition was fierce but Checkatrade.com, with its £7.5m turnover and solid growth despite economic conditions, stood head and shoulders above the rest.

This is the third Sussex Business Awards win in three years for Checkatrade.com boss Kevin Byrne, who picked up Sussex Businessperson of the Year in 2012 and Entrepreneur of the Year in 2011.

"Winning Sussex Company of the Year is an outstanding achievement," he said. "Checkatrade.com receives 700,000 visits a month, generates £1,4billion a year for its 12,000 trade members and recently hit one million customer reviews. We worked hard to reach this point so to be recognised, again, by the Sussex Business Awards feels fantastic."

The National Payroll Giving Excellence Awards celebrates organisations that promote the Government's Payroll Giving scheme, which allows employees to make regular, tax free donations to charities of their choice.

Checkatrade.com is rated platinum under Payroll Giving alongside just 51 companies in the UK, including firms such as Santander and Lloyds. Over half of its employees donate through the scheme, raising approximately £10,000 every year.

The firm won 'Best SME Campaign' for its 'Big Cheese' campaign to raise awareness of the scheme among its workforce, which jokingly compared what people gave to charity to what they spend on cheese.

Ends

Notes to editors:

Every customer feedback is read by Checkatrade.com before being made live. So far this year 55% of all customer feedback forms have been independently spot checked and verified to make sure the jobs and rating are genuine. Each month more than **800,000** people visit the website to find a trusted trader.

Checkatrade.com:

Checkatrade helps combat the UK's rogue trader problem by continuously vetting and monitoring local tradespeople such as builders, plumbers and electricians as well as service providers. The idea was born in 1998 after a tornado hit the small West Sussex town of Selsey. Traders poured in from across the country. Unfortunately, some ripped off the inhabitants of the town. Local businessman, Kevin Byrne, realised there was nowhere to check out the traders' credentials and the company that became Checkatrade was formed.

Since then, Checkatrade has grown to employ **120 staff** with a turnover in excess of **£7.5m**. It has over **12,250** genuine trade members, growing by an average of **300** new members every month. Over the past 12 months, Checkatrade-certified tradesmen carried out a combined total of **£1.4b** worth of work, with complaints at just **one in 215**, compared to the national average of one in four.

Linda Barker, one of the UK's best-known interior designers and famous for shows such as **60 Minute Makeover** and the BBC's **Changing Rooms** has teamed up with Checkatrade.com. She said: "Checkatrade.com is by far the best service I've found to help keep the good guys in business and keep the cowboys out. The website is updated constantly and allows everyone to share recommendations and warnings."

For more information visit www.checkatrade.com

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