

NEWS RELEASE

Embargoed until 13 August 2014

F. HINDS LIMITED - RE-CERTIFIED BY THE RJC

LONDON - RJC announced today that F. Hinds Limited, the UK jewellery retailer, has achieved Re-Certification by meeting the highest ethical, social and environmental standards established by the RJC.

"RJC congratulates F. Hinds on achieving Re-Certification. After a Member has become RJC Certified for the first time, independent verification is required at the end of each certification period to ensure continued conformance and thereby maintain Certified Member status," says Catherine Sproule, RJC's Chief Executive Officer - Interim.

The successful verification assessment was conducted by UL Responsible Sourcing, one of the independent third-party auditing firms accredited by the RJC.

"We are delighted to be among the first wave of companies to have achieved Re-Certification by the RJC. This shows our customers, staff and suppliers that we have been independently verified and that we duly comply with RJC's international standards on responsible business practices for diamonds and precious metals. It is important to note that RJC's Code of Practices covers many crucial areas for consumer confidence in our industry, including human and labour rights, environmental impact and product disclosure," says Andrew Hinds, F. Hinds Director and current Chairman of the UK industry trade body the National Association of Goldsmiths.

For further information please contact:

Madalina Grigorie, Communications Coordinator, Responsible Jewellery Council Telephone + 44 (0)20 7836 6376, madalina.grigorie@responsiblejewellery.com

About RJC

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit standards and certification organisation. It has more than 500 Member companies that span the jewellery supply chain from mine to retail. RJC Members commit to and are independently audited against the RJC Code of Practices – an international standard on responsible business practices for diamonds, gold and platinum group metals. The Code of Practices addresses human rights, labour rights, environmental impact, mining practices, product disclosure and many more important topics in the jewellery supply chain. RJC also works with multi-stakeholder initiatives on responsible sourcing and supply chain due diligence. The RJC's Chain-of-Custody Certification for precious metals supports these initiatives and can be used as a tool to deliver broader Member and stakeholder benefit.

The RJC is a <u>Full Member of the ISEAL Alliance</u> – the global association for sustainability standards. For more information on RJC Members, Certification, and Standards please visit <u>www.responsiblejewellery.com</u>

About F. Hinds Limited

F. Hinds is one of the leading jewellery retailers in the UK with over 100 stores across England & Wales. Founded in 1856, it is owned and managed by the sixth and seventh generations of the Hinds family. For more information visit www.fhinds.co.uk

RJC Certification Information – F. Hinds

www.responsiblejewellery.com

RJC Certified Members