



# NEWS RELEASE

24 May 2021

## Belfast's HUB Financial Solutions unveiled as one of Northern Ireland's 10 Best Companies To Work For 2021

- 150 colleagues in the HUB Financial Solutions Belfast office
- Strong performance reflects Just Group's commitment to helping colleagues through the coronavirus pandemic and support for the local Belfast community

**HUB Financial Solutions** has been named as one of Northern Ireland's 10 Best Companies To Work For. The company is part of Just Group, the FTSE 250 retirement specialist, and the Group was also named in the UK's 100 Best Large Companies To Work For and ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in Financial Services' 30 Best Companies To Work For.

HUB Financial Solutions is a significant local employer with 150 colleagues working out of the Belfast office.

Best Companies to Work For Lists and Best Companies Accreditation are viewed as setting the standard in workplace engagement, showcasing organisations that care about doing things right, that value their people and understand the importance of a truly engaged workforce.

Accreditation is based on an impartial and independent survey of all colleagues which is assessed and analysed by Best Companies.

In a year of uncertainty for everyone, HUB Financial Solutions has worked hard to keep its people connected, safe and with the ability to contribute positively to their local communities. The entry by its parent company, Just Group, into the UK's 100 Best Large Companies To Work For List shows how colleagues have valued the support and opportunities the company has offered them, and this is reflected in HUB Financial Solutions' ranking as one of Northern Ireland's 10 Best Companies to Work For 2021.

Some of the initiatives put in place by HUB Financial Solutions to help colleagues respond to the pandemic.

- Immediately increasing remote working capacity from around 300 to over 1,000 and within three weeks equipped 99% of colleagues with new technology and equipment to enable them to work from home productively.
- Encouragement and freedom to support local volunteering opportunities to help the community manage the challenges presented by the pandemic.
- Quickly introducing flexible working arrangements to help colleagues meet their caring responsibilities and the challenges of working from home.
- Promoting a suite of measures to support colleagues' wellbeing. These included free corporate subscriptions to Headspace and LinkedIn Learning, online social events and yoga classes, and a series of webinars with expert speakers and support groups to help colleagues meet some of the challenges presented by the pandemic.
- Increased communication from the senior team to thank colleagues for their agility in adapting to such sudden change and to keep them up to date on the business' progress.

## News release

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**Kathryn Gray, Chief People Officer at parent company Just Group**, was delighted that the business had been recognised for its commitment to colleagues and wider support for the community as a major local employer.

“Supporting the wellbeing of our colleagues and ensuring the delivery of critical services to customers have been clear priorities in our response to the pandemic. Homeworking was a significant change for a predominantly office-based community.

“We’ve worked very hard to ensure our colleagues have had the resources and support they need to react to this change and we are very proud of how brilliantly they have responded.

“Our colleagues have demonstrated resilience and agility in adapting so positively to the change and throughout it all have maintained the delivery of all our services to customers, many of whom are in the more vulnerable groups. Some colleagues have actively contributed and volunteered in their local communities and we have been flexible in helping them deliver this local support.

“We’re so proud our teams’ efforts have been recognised with a spot in these coveted Best Companies lists.”

### **Case Study: Joanne Emerson – HUB Financial Solutions Retirement Introducer, Belfast**

First point of contact with customers

*“I saw the retirement introducer role at HUB during the lockdown and it immediately stood out for me because of its friendly but efficient approach to customer service and the mix of responsibilities. From the first interview, it was clear how much the company cared about its people and customers.*

*“I’ve been working both from home and the office taking customer calls but with time to learn from each one and with experienced members of the team available to help. What’s great is that the responsibility is shared across the team and there is a genuine desire to help and support one another. Joining HUB Financial Solutions has been a step in the right direction for me and I look forward to learning more and meeting more colleagues as the lockdown restrictions ease.”*

*Pictures of Joanne are available upon request.*

## Enquiries

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### **Notes to Editors:**

### **About HUB Group**

HUB Group's operating companies are modern, technology-driven businesses specialising in providing integrated financial solutions to UK businesses and to their customers and members. Collectively the Group's businesses are one of the UK's biggest providers of regulated advice and guidance to people in later life.

HUB Group has provided advice and guidance to over 100,000 customers and pension scheme members, helping them turn £1 billion of pension savings into a guaranteed income for life, release £1 billion of equity from their homes and provided specialist advice on defined benefit transfers.

HUB Group comprises:

- HUB Financial Solutions – a provider of regulated advice, retirement solutions and services to UK businesses and other organisations;
- HUB Pension Consulting – a specialist in providing client advisory services to defined benefit (DB) pension scheme trustees and scheme sponsors undertaking bulk member options exercises; and
- HUB Digital Solutions – a financial technology business that specialises in creating innovative and disruptive retirement-focused solutions.

HUB Group is part of FTSE 250 company Just Group plc. The companies within Just Group are authorised and regulated in the United Kingdom by the Financial Conduct Authority and / or the Prudential Regulation Authority.

Just received a 2 Star Best Companies accreditation in May 2021 making it officially an outstanding company to work for: <https://www.b.co.uk/companies/just-group>

More information on HUB Group can be found at: [www.HUB-Group.co.uk](http://www.HUB-Group.co.uk)

