

Sesame Bankhall Group Ltd

Registered Office: Pixham End, Dorking, Surrey RH14 1QA
Registered in England No. 3573352

www.sesamebankhall.co.uk

PRESS RELEASE

26 January 2012

Sesame Bankhall Group HR Director scoops top industry award

Lisa Winnard, director of HR & development at financial services company Sesame Bankhall Group, has been awarded a coveted top industry accolade.

Lisa has been named HR Director of the Year at the prestigious HR Distinction Awards 2012, held at the ICC in Birmingham in front of 400 of her peer HR professionals from across the UK.

The HR Distinction Awards recognise the outstanding achievement of HR Directors from the UK's leading companies and are assessed by a panel of judges selected from some of the UK's biggest organisations, including Tesco, McDonald's and Carphone Warehouse.

Lisa's triumph recognises a series of innovations that have helped Sesame Bankhall Group to respond positively to significant industry change. This includes leading the development and launch of The Financial Adviser School, which is a new initiative that is helping to attract and train the next generation of professional financial advisers – some of whom have no previous industry experience.

Students benefit from a clear career path and an innovative new training programme, which gives them the technical knowledge and practical people skills necessary to become the industry professionals and business entrepreneurs of the future.

Sesame Bankhall Group CEO, George Higginson, said: "This award is recognised as the ultimate distinction in HR. Our profession is undergoing significant change as a result of economic and regulatory pressure, and the award acknowledges Lisa's achievements in delivering an effective people strategy that has delivered clear results. Along with the development of exciting new opportunities for our staff, our strategy is also enabling Sesame Bankhall Group to play a leading role in nurturing the industry professionals of the future. The Financial Adviser School is an apprenticeship programme that is making a real difference to people's lives and it is something we are very proud of."

Lisa Winnard added: "I am privileged to be working with a strong leadership team and talented people who are continually looking to improve the services and support we offer our customers. There is also

Sesame Bankhall Group Ltd

Registered Office: Pixham End, Dorking, Surrey RH14 1QA
Registered in England No. 3573352

www.sesamebankhall.co.uk

a clear commitment to invest in our people and our infrastructure, which is enabling Sesame Bankhall Group to maintain its market leading position.”

At the same awards Sesame Bankhall Group was also a finalist in two other categories: Distinction in Employee Engagement and Distinction in Talent Development.

Sesame Bankhall Group has long been recognised as the UK’s leading provider of support services to financial advisers. The company has led the ‘Top 100 Advisers’ list, run by FT Business publication Financial Adviser, for the last seven years.

- Ends -

Further media enquiries

Jared Aitken, Head of media relations
Sesame Bankhall Group
Mobile: 07801 500466
E: jared.aitken@sesame.co.uk

Jon Atkins, MRM
Office: 020 3326 9915
Mobile: 07557 286721
E: jon.atkins@mrm-london.com

Sesame is part of Sesame Bankhall Group, which operates three distinct distribution brands:

- Sesame is the UK’s largest appointed representative (AR) network with 1,300 member firms.
- Bankhall is the market-leading support services business for 1,500 directly regulated IFA firms.
- PMS operates the largest mortgage club for directly regulated mortgage brokers in the UK.

Services provided include compliance and regulatory support, access to one of the UK’s most comprehensive training and development programmes, in-depth product research, preferential PI terms and access to the latest technology to enable advisers to write business more efficiently.