Great Place To Work<sub>®</sub>

2023





# Best Workplaces For All

More than 190,000 UK employees and leaders share why they love their workplace

# Discover your next 'great place to work'





SUSTAINABILITY

SOCIAL

ETHICS

🔘 gowling wlg

gowlingwlg.com

ENVIRONMENT

NATURE

RESPONSIBILITY

FUTURE

ECONOMIC

EQUALITY

Gowling WLG (UK) LLP is a member of Gowling WLG, an international law firm which consists of independent and autonomous entities around the world. Our structure is explained in more detail at www.gowlingwlg.com/legal

### Are you thinking about your sustainability journey but don't know where to start?

IEMA can help you become a 'great place to work' by supporting your sustainability professionals and building credible green skills across your organisation. We offer training and professional development through our individual and corporate memberships.

Join our network of over 20,000 skilled individuals and 300 corporate partners today



**IEMA** Transforming the world to sustainability iema.net/responsiblebusiness







### **Back to** basics

eing ranked a Best Workplace<sup>™</sup> is a huae cause for celebration for any organisation.

But being a Best Workplace does not stop once the awards have been handed out. Organisations that are ranked study their feedback. They formulate

**"BEST** 

WORKPLACES™

ARE ENGAGED IN

**A CONSTANT** 

PROCESS OF

plans to address any areas that need improvement. They roll out changes. And they ask employees what they think.

Best Workplaces are engaged in a constant process of asking, listening, learning and acting. Take a look at Coventry Building Society, for example - it was one of the organisations that was ranked a Best Workplace for the first time last year, and has repeated the achievement this year. The organisation has followed up on its action plans, while continuing to listen to employees and work together to create a positive experience.

When employees are asked for their opinions of the organisational culture and their work, they often want to see change. If nothing happens, they feel their views don't matter. They might feel less productive and will definitely feel less engaged. Asking for feedback then doing nothing with it is worse than not asking for feedback at all.

Along with recognising the value of your employees, listening to them and acting on what they say is a

ASKING, LISTENING, LEARNING AND ACTING" basic tenet of being a Best Workplace. It's also crucial to

remember that you have to embrace all employees for this to be effective. Being 'for all' through diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) policies and strategies is fundamental to Best Workplaces.

This all needs to come from the top, too, Look at what David Meads, Chief Executive UK & Ireland at Cisco, this year's Best Workplace (Super Large), writes (p28). Cisco leaders set the tone for the organisation, from its DEI strategy to its flexible working policies. But more than that, they take accountability, and are authentic and consistent in the decisions they make.

Enjoy reading about the inspiring work that our Best Workplaces do.

### **Benedict Gautrey** Managing Director, Great Place To Work® UK

## **CONTENTS**

Solid start

Meet some of this year's 150 new entrants to Best Workplaces™

#### One year on

We speak to four companies that have been ranked for a second year running

#### Love work

Find out what it's like to work at a Best Workplace<sup>™</sup> from those who know

#### Problem solved

Dr Petrina Carmody helps organisations with their culture challenges

- Small category list (20-50 employees) Hatmill tops the 100 Best Workplaces™
- Medium category list (51-250) This year, Braze ranks number one among 100 organisations
- Large category list (251-1,000) Tech company NVIDIA retains the top spot for the second year running

Super Large category list (1,001+) 28 Cisco heads up the 57 Best Workplaces™

#### EDITORIAL

Anna Scott, Helen Wright

ACCOUNT DIRECTOR Joanna Marsh

EDITING Anna Scott. Caroline Taylor

DESIGN Craig Bowyer, Yvev Bailev

ANALYSIS Abigail Animwa, Amana Imthiyaz, Elizabeth Pincher, James Bufton, Jon Rice, Tom Meek

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS Dr Eduard Berndt. James Bufton

#### **GREAT PLACE TO WORK®**

UK Abigail Animwa, Amy Ona, Ann-Marie Havcox, Benedict Gautrey, Beth Taylor, Claire Knights, Daniel Clarke, Davita Lamai, Deeya Dhar, Dr Eduard Berndt, Elliot Slade, Emma Heslop, Emdad Khan, Helen Wright, James Bufton, Jon Rice, Jonathan

Mercer, Kay Chesterman, Keith O'Gorman, Kelly Ross, Kunle Malomo, Louise Offen, Luciana Barchet, Magda Parkinson, Mannpriyana Kohli, Mariana Skirmuntt, Marianna Roach, Mark Fowles, Mathew Hellela, Michelle Magalhaes, Mukesh Sachdev, Musteyde Oluwole, Nick Honour, Nicola Papenfus, Olga Londono, Osheni Desilva-Patel, Paula Griggs, Dr. Petrina Carmody Phil Wilson Rachael McAteer, Raymond Bromfield, Sara Silvonen, Seema Shah, Shalagh Fredericks, Will Harrison, Zarah Patel

#### PUBLISHED BY

Redactive Publishing Ltd, 9 Dallinaton Street. London EC1V OLN Tel +44 (0)20 7880 6200

#### PRINTED BY

Walstead Peterborough Published April/May 2023

### **DHL Parcel UK**

The distribution sector has spent the past few years transforming the way it works as it adapted to global events. Despite the challenges, DHL Parcel UK has kept its workforce engaged and motivated with clear and consistent communication.

"Fast forward to 2023 and not only have we continued to keep our people informed through roadshows, town halls and videos, we've now introduced our Smart Connect app, which is available to download by anyone working at DHL," savs CEO Peter Fuller.

"Smart Connect enables all our people, many of whom previously had no direct access to information, the chance to have news, updates and useful information at their fingertips." And the reasons behind the company's success in the Best Workplaces<sup>™</sup> ranking? "Our people, absolutely our people," Peter adds.

### **Expedia Group**

Purpose is one of the key things that jobhunters look for, and it is crucial for engagement. "As an employer, we believe we offer something unique - the opportunity to create amazing experiences for millions of travellers and to build products and tech that power the industry," says Michael Davis Velasco, Chief People, Inclusion and Diversity Officer. "We know our employees join Expedia Group because they find our mission meaninaful. We're not just selling a product at Expedia Group but delivering life-changing experiences that strengthen connections, broaden horizons and bridge divides.

And it's because of its people that the company has been successful in the Best Workplace™ ranking. "We have an open, inclusive and supportive culture, thanks to our amazing employees around the world. We're a passionate group of people who believe travel is a force for good and are focused on making it more accessible and enjoyable for all. That passion fuels us and shows up in the way we support our colleagues, travellers and partners every day," Michael adds.

### **Gambling Commission**

"Our Great Place To Work® agenda is a strategic priority for our organisation. It is truly a shared aim that all colleagues contribute to," says Rebecca Windsor, Head of Organisational Development at the non-departmental public body of the UK government.

The public sector is facing a lot of challenges in the UK. For the Gambling Commission, the most significant factor in building a culture of trust and belonging is leadership. "Everyone here has a part to play in the Commission's story, and we believe in putting people first - both our internal colleagues and the people we are here to serve," Rebecca adds.

Being ranked a Best Workplace<sup>™</sup> has provided the organisation with insight and evidence about how it is perceived internally and externally.

### **KEY LEARNINGS FROM TAKING PART IN BEST WORKPLACES**<sup>TM</sup>

"Creating the opportunity for everyone across our diverse team best enables the business to identify what is working well and what needs improving."

✓ "It's critical to ask for employee feedback on our programmes and culture. We rely on our employees to tell us what's working, what's not, and how we can make their experience better."

✓ "The Trust Index Survey results are really useful to drive improvements in the workplace."

"The Great Place To Work" Certification aives us a competitive edge when recruiting and also when tendering for work contracts."

### "Making the ranking in our first vear of entering and attaining a high response rate when this is a new project for the business was a surprise, especially as 60% don't

have access to a work email or device" Peter Fuller. CEO. DHL Parcel UK

"We believed that our culture and collegaue experience made us a 'areat place to work', but we weren't sure how we might compare through assessment to external oraanisations" Rebecca Windsor, Head of Organisational Development, Gambling Commission

"It's amazing to see the progress we've made as a company, and the inclusive culture that's been cultivated even through the pandemic. As we take a step back, it's pretty miraculous to see how much we've achieved when our industry was at a standstill' Michael Davis Velasco, Chief People, Inclusion and Diversity Officer, Expedia Group

# **Solid start**

aco

More than 150 organisations are new entrants to the Best Workplaces<sup>™</sup> ranking. We talk to some of them about their success and what it means for them

### **National Gas Meterina**

Rising energy prices are a key cause of the cost-of-living crisis. With responsibility for maintaining and managing about seven million domestic, industrial and commercial combined gas assets across the UK, National Gas Metering has been working with its employees and the communities it serves to help.

"We have a group of employees whose purpose is to raise money and support a number of charities across the West Midlands," says Maxine Long, Director. "For our employees, we have a range of financial resources and financial support, our employee assistance helpline, counselling and flexible working hours to allow for school runs and care appointments, along with annual pay rises and other flexible benefits."

The fact that the organisation's

the home or office. There are also regular opportunities to get involved with charity work and give back to our community."

This people-centred approach enables the business to deliver for its customers.

### Citipost Mail

"One of our main strengths is that we have managed to retain our small business, family-style values, even though we have arown considerably in size over the past 10 years," says Hannah Simmons, Head of Human Resources. "These values have shaped our culture. and we are known in our industry as a bunch of professional and skilled people, who are super-helpful and fun to talk to." She believes these 'family business' values are behind the company's success. "Our culture goes beyond a 'great place to work', as people genuinely care about their colleagues,

and this is something that exists at executive board level as well as across the more junior but vital roles." It is the softer initiatives the company

has implemented that really keep

### **BENEFITS OF** PARTICIPATING **IN BEST WORKPLACES<sup>™</sup>**

1CO (E)

ICO 🕼

Better understanding of how employees feel about the organisation to drive change

- Benchmark with other **C** organisations and industries
- 3 Stay visible to top talent in the UK and around the world
- Achieve additional 4 recognition and pride among the workforce
- of choice

employees engaged, such as having birthdays off, flexible working, engagement days, length of service awards and, most importantly, the ability to engage in open communication with any colleague at any level at any time. "This communication channel is vital to our culture," Hannah adds.

5 Improve employer branding and become an employer

PRODUCED BY REDACTIVE MEDIA GROUP

4 uk\_info@greatplacetowork.com

# One year on

Last year, a record number of organisations were new entrants to the Best Workplaces<sup>™</sup> ranking. We speak to four companies that have been ranked for the second year running about what they have learned



eina ranked a Best Workplace™ is no mean feat. Obtaining a ranking two years in a row - like Coventry Building Society, online wine retailer Laithwaites, retirement home developer McCarthy Stone and manufacturer Moose Toys, among others - is a big achievement. But the process is about more than completing a survey. It means taking action on the results. constantly asking and listening to employees and acting on what is learned. Getting insights from the workforce with the specific intention of doing something about them forms part of an ongoing process.

Practically, this means looking in detail at engagement scores, sharing them with colleagues and working across the business to put impactful action plans in place. For example, Coventry Building Society increased communication and engagement around its wellbeing and benefits package, revamped its recognition programme and asked employees to share their views on topics like hybrid working and empowerment.

"It was fantastic to see that with colleagues' help, engagement improved and the number of positive comments related to these topics shot up," Kirsty adds. "We work hard on putting the right action plans in place to deliver a positive colleague experience. They're based on survey results, feedback received and the brilliant conversations we have with our teams to understand their thoughts in more detail."

The company has found that as well as working on areas for improvement, it has been important to build on its strengths. "We see wellbeing as a real success story at the Society. And we've worked even harder throughout the past year to raise awareness of all the brilliant things available to colleagues, bring in new support based on their feedback and step up in areas like financial wellbeing when people needed it the most," Kirsty adds.

### A focal point in decisions

Truly listening to employees and then taking action has been the biggest success for McCarthy Stone. "The business introduced a new set of values in November 2022, where we listened to feedback from our colleagues' responses to the survey to help us shape the culture within the organisation," says Paul Teverson, Director of Communications. "Having a high response rate gave us the confidence that we had a good representation within the business, and the results formed a key part of the framework in our values work." Running the survey for a second time has allowed the company to take on board some of the outcomes from the first survey. This includes scheduling the

survey to take place in November rather than September, in order to incorporate responses and feedback into McCarthy Stone's objective-setting for the new financial year.

"Great Place To Work<sup>®</sup> has become embedded into our ways of working and is a focal point in the decisions we take," Paul adds.

The company communicated the results of the survey through key stakeholders to different teams throughout the organisation. Then it set up clear, realistic and targeted action plans, with two or three key focus points in each area of the business. This gave a clear framework to work from and

### **TOP TIPS**

- Keep up momentum throughout the year for
- completing the survey ✓ Be open and transparent about
- what the results tell you
   Reflect on the feedback you've gained and put in place the right plans to improve
- Make sure to communicate progress at regular intervals
- Encourage collaboration among different members of the workforce

became a monthly agenda item with individual accountability.

"We plan to continue to communicate with our people at regular intervals throughout the year. Whether it's celebrating a new recognition award or highlighting the work each business area has done to move things forward since the last survey, we are mindful that people want to see action from their feedback," Paul says.

### Small actions, bigger wins

Laithwaites built on what it learnt in 2022 by elevating its approach to inclusivity and diversity. "We introduced an employee resource group called embRACE, inviting colleagues of ethnic minority backgrounds to come together, discuss their experiences and propose changes and initiatives," says UK CEO Philippa Strub.

"Just as important, we were able to communicate results and follow up within each functional team and create action plans specifically targeted at different sections of the business. Sometimes, these smaller actions resulted in bigger wins."

The company followed up the findings received from its employee survey with a thorough analysis and



### "THE BIGGEST PART OF OUR SUCCESS HAS BEEN TRULY LISTENING TO OUR COLLEAGUES AND TAKING ACTION"

review of the results, followed by agreement of key actions. "Ownership is with the senior leadership to ensure agreed actions are implemented," Philippa says. Being ranked a Best Workplace™ has created a real sense of achievement and pride. "I am sure it has also helped us in a competitive recruitment environment, as people want to work for a Best Workplace" organisation," she adds. "Our focus next year will be to ensure that our people

initiatives are equitable for all."

## Concentrating on new

priorities "Being ranked as a Best Workplace™ for the second year running proves that consistency in our approach and progress, with focus on continual improvement, is imperative," says Neil Shinner, CEO

UK & EU of Moose

Toys. "By working collaboratively with our teams to make Moose an even better place to work and maintain our fantastic culture, we remain focused and aligned with our company values." The Great Place To Work® surveys provide a method and opportunity for employees at the toy design, development and distribution company to share their voice, invaluable in helping the company create and sustain its 'one company: one great culture' ethos globally. "We listen to what our people say,

with survey feedback being assessed and prioritised by our leadership and management team," Neil adds. "We encourage engagement, providing clarity of vision on our key focus for the organisation in the coming year. This approach helps us concentrate on new priorities while continuing to embed our previous successful actions, reviewing and communicating our progress along the way."

"Having clarity of vision, strong communication and collaboration and a clear set of values creates an environment for success within Moose, something that we are very proud of."

# Love work

What's it like to work at a Best Workplace<sup>™</sup>? Our comments from employees reveal all

etting authentic, anonymous employee feedback is an essential ingredient of the Best Workplaces Programme. In our survey, employees share what it's really like to work at their employer, including what they love most about the company. Here, we reveal the 10 top people practices that UK workers have told us makes theirs a genuinely 'great place to work'.

### Culture

Having a positive, clear organisational structure that is reinforced is really important to employees at Best Workplaces<sup>™</sup>, including values that are shorthand for 'the way we do things around here'. A strong sense of purpose is also increasingly important to employees, as can be seen in these comments taken from their anonymous survey responses:

"People do amazing work here in supporting vulnerable adults... [There's a] huge sense of purpose in making a difference to people's lives."

"As a company, we live our Learn, Care, Share values consistently in all our activities. This has created an open and collaborative culture, based on transparency, autonomy and purpose."

"It's the people - the common belief in the purpose we have and the problems we solve aligns perfectly with passion, experience and a collective warm, fuzzy feeling."

"The people here live our values. Inclusion is particularly important. People are able to be themselves when working here and are given every opportunity to develop and grow." "We have strong core values that flow through the workplace, with a like-minded approach to live, learn and dream – in new ideas for the company and the health, wellbeing and mental health of our work family. I can truly be myself here, without judgement. Everyone needs a workplace like ours."

### Communication

Many organisations have regular forms of communication from the leadership team and opportunities to provide feedback and share ideas. Best Workplaces<sup>™</sup> recognise that communication goes two ways and that a big part of a healthy culture is around empowering employees to share their perspectives.

"This is the only company I have ever worked [at] where I feel like I am working in a genuinely open and honest environment, where I am heard and can have an impact"

"The focus on people here promotes innovation and motivation, which is refreshing, and I believe in the company's mission and its ability to deliver on it."

"Ours is an open and strongly collaborative working environment, where you are capable of challenging your own ideas and learning from the approaches of others within their areas of expertise and specialisms."

### | Leadership

Strong leadership drives our topperforming Best Workplaces<sup>™</sup>. Qualities of good leaders include a willingness to be open, inclusive and empathetic. They uphold the values of the organisation, demonstrate credibility and fairness, inspire trust and are accountable. Visibility of the top tier of management was a common theme across our 2023 Best Workplaces<sup>™</sup>.

> "I have a huge amount of trust in senior management. They make excellent judgements, listen when help is needed, are approachable and willing to make changes that are going to have a positive impact"

"The leadership are fair and meritocratic – the scale of the agency also enables individuals of all types to stand out, based on their contribution – and contributions are recognised."

### Flexibility

Best Workplaces<sup>™</sup> championed flexible working way before the Coronavirus pandemic – understanding the importance of giving employees the ability to work remotely and at times that fitted with other commitments.



### A DAY IN THE LIFE

Many organisations have email curfews, during which time people cannot send non-urgent messages – between 7pm and 7am, for example. And others empower employees to create clear boundaries between work and personal time during remote working.

"I am completely trusted to get on with my work without being micromanaged, and my managers allow me to be flexible with my time at work so that I can fit my home life around my work life. This is hugely important to me. I am encouraged to work on things outside my normal job role that I love to do, to enhance my development."

"We are a remote-first organisation, but I don't feel isolated or forgotten about – we are actively encouraged to create hubs to enable meet-ups with other colleagues in our local areas."

### Diversity, equity and inclusion

Equity in the workplace is not just about fair pay; it's about enabling all employees to reach their full potential. More organisations are offering diverse, inclusive working methods. For example, one organisation leverages technology by increasing the load of Central Processing Units (CPUs), which improves performance and collaboration among remote workers. Another gives employees an 'Office in a Box' – a collection of tools and equipment

"We embrace change and inclusion - everyone is given free rein to promote healthy debate with clients and candidates, and we actively take it away from recruitment matters, which shows that it's not just about making money"

that allows employees to work at home, in the office, in the field or a blend of all three. "We've all undertaken diversity and inclusion training, which was informative and insightful."

### **Career development**

A clear progression pipeline is crucial for employees in Best Workplaces<sup>™</sup>. Whether that takes the form of career advice sessions, placements within other departments or self-nominated promotions, there is a vast range of career development opportunities that Best Workplaces<sup>™</sup> offer.

"There is a lot of opportunity to move into new roles, not just promote in line, so people can change careers here and

"They invest everything in personal development. No two people are managed in the same way"

feel confident and supported in making that transition. That is what makes me think I will stay for a long time."

### Wellbeing and benefits

The links between business success and employee wellbeing do not go unnoticed by Best Workplaces<sup>™</sup>. Whether it's offering benefits that support physical or mental health and wellbeing, introducing wellbeing champions across the company, or promoting an employee assistance provider, there are lots of different ways in which Best Workplaces<sup>™</sup> focus on their employees' wellbeing.

"I was particularly impressed by the benefits relating to reproductive treatment. I'd not come across that before, and it's such a personal and emotive topic that I was very impressed to see it addressed in the benefits package."

"There is tangible investment in wellbeing, with yoga, meditation, advice

### TOP 10 CHARACTERISTICS OF BEST WORKPLACES

- 1. Company culture
- 2. Benefits
- 3. Senior management
- 4. Wellbeing
- 5. Diversity, inclusion and belonging
- 6. Communication and involvement
- 7. Career and development
- 8. Social wellbeing
- 9. People focus
- 10. Flexibility

and listening services, formal wellbeing days and a financial wellbeing allowance. This shows that we are valued as human beings."

"The senior team continually looks at ways of working, work-life balance and wellbeing to ensure that we have all the support we need."

"The benefits we receive related to work-life balance, such as extra holiday or pay for overtime, are pretty unique in our industry"

These comments show that being a Best Workplace<sup>™</sup> is not just about communicating strategies, policies and leadership messages. Success means that the on-the-ground experience of employees reflects a strong culture, a sense of pride, purpose and a focus on wellbeing.



Simple, secure + rewarding payments.

Banked :

Select. Pay by Bank: Connect. M 🕹 💙 Approve. 🕑 🍈 \* \*



RYGOR

# **Problem solved**



Great Place To Work's Director of Change, Dr Petrina Carmody, helps organisations to address their culture challenges

"AS SO OFTEN IN LIFE,

IT IS SUSTAINED

COMMITMENT AND

GRIT THAT

CREATE SUCCESS"

matter, of course, as a higher response

rate (and a better spread of responses)

action. Response rates may decline for

communication, too many surveys - or

confidentiality concerns or how results

are acted on. Response rates can also

safe and worthwhile commenting, and

be a barometer of how a survey is

received - whether people think it's

make results more likely to be robust

several reasons, be they practical -

and give a stronger mandate for

such as volume of work, survey

deeper factors - such as

if action will be taken.

You signpost response rates. They

### **Getting value** from surveys

l'm an HR director in a larae hospitality organisation. Every year, we feel that we have to carry out an annual survey with our employees, but I'm not convinced that they're necessary - the response rate is low, and we're never quite sure what to do with the findings. I'm beginning to feel they're a waste of time, as nothing much seems to change anyway. Should we give up on them? What makes surveys deliver real value for vour clients?

In my experience, surveys can form a critical part of shaping and driving people strategy, when done correctly. My advice is simple: stop, or at least pause, what you are doing, as it sounds as if it is not working for you. So, where do you go from here?

### **Purpose and intent**

First, why is a survey really being done? And is this belief owned by the senior team? One of the key differentiators in getting value from a survey - or not is clarity of purpose and intent. Organisations that really move their cultures forward to deliver on their strategy believe:

- Everyone has something to say that is worth hearing
- We want to hear it
- We will act on it (if we can and it's appropriate) and demonstrate that we have.



### **Practical set-up**

- The foundations need to be right: • Make sure the survey tool is firmly part of the people strategy
- Ask the right things in the right way (that resonates with your people)
- Is the process confidential and perceived as such?
- Is it easy to administer, complete and use results from?
- How do vou action-plan?
- Who owns the survey insight HR or management? This could be critical
- How do you communicate the survey? • Do you allow enough time between surveys to act and for action to be felt?

### Usina insiahts

You mention the sense of not much changing after the survey. It's easy to identify the potential results of that: • People feel their views don't matter, reducing motivation

• Necessary improvements aren't made, so the organisation falls further behind in people experience and productivity

- Surveys give leaders the gold-dust chance to hear what their people really think, and acting on this can increase trust, whereas failing to do so is likely to decrease trust. Trust and engagement intertwine, and engagement fuels performance
- The next time people are asked to complete a survey, they are less likely to bother. The line of communication and trust collapses. It is, of course, harder to get things right. So consider the following principles in your surveys:



Be ready to act, and do a ACT | few thin gs well (avoid spreading yourself too thinly)

Where you can't act, share the reasons why

Ensure ownership (buy-in and accountability matter)

(口) Do regular check-ins

Stick with it - changes take 365 Days time to plan, do and see

### Measure again

Communicate and enagae employees, so that actions address the issues.

The biggest key to change is persistence. It is critical that the survey represents 'business as usual' for the organisation. The highestperforming organisations (like our list makers) act to improve their people experience day in, day out. A survey provides a key check on success; it's a means, not an end in itself.

As so often in life, it is sustained commitment and grit that create success. With a renewed approach to surveys, I'm sure you can succeed.

### How can we tackle culture change?

Our survey raises some practical challenges - for example, physical working conditions

- but also some deeper issues about culture and how our organisation is led. It's easy to get senior buy-in for practical challenges, but leadership and culture issues often feel too big to tackle. How do I aet the senior team on board, as these issues largely sit with them?

Thank you for sharing these important challenges. We know from our 40 years of research just how critical they are to the employee experience and productivity/profitability.

Understandably, questions about 'how' we work - for example, management approachability - can feel harder to tackle than questions about 'what' we do, such as benefits.

Three key points strike me that may be helpful in getting traction:

### Why does this matter? Culture –

put simply, 'the way things are done around here' - influences the attitudes and behaviours of employees. A strong culture can foster trust and productivity. A toxic culture is not only hard to work in but also comes with risks, such as reduced innovation and cooperation. Peter Drucker is famously associated with the quote, 'culture eats strategy for breakfast'. Culture is the filter through which strategy passes and on which it will flourish or flounder.



**Am I in control?** How an crganisation is led from the top has a key role in shaping culture. This realisation makes many leaders stop and reflect. Our work often involves helping leaders to interact more mindfully to drive both experiences at work and organisational culture in the desired direction.

#### Can I really move the needle on **this?** A recent example I'm

particularly proud of is an IT company of about 2,000 employees that had surveyed with us. It found there were notable gaps between the views from its most senior employees and those working for them, and determined to address this. If those at the 'top' determine the strategy, are they setting their organisations up for failure if they have a different view from the majority, who have to deliver on it? Over 18 months, we facilitated one-to-one and team coaching with the top leadership team. Between the first and subsequent survey, scores on key leadership questions increased by an average of 25%.

In the best-performing organisations. leaders know that culture determines the success of their strategy. They also know they have a key influence on culture. I hope this helps you and your leadership team on your own journey.

If you would find it valuable to share your organisational challenges, please do reach out to me, Dr Petrina Carmody, Director of Change, at petrina.carmody@greatplacetowork.com

12 uk\_info@greatplacetowork.com

իրի Lov



# 'Our ethos is based on selfmanagement and mutual trust'

Supply chain and logistics company Hatmill is ranked the No. 1 Best Workplace™ in the Small size category. Founder **Simon Dixon** explains why

've been determined to create a culture that avoids the usual corporate traps and focuses on what's important – for both our clients and our team. Particular ways of working have been fundamental to our growth. The result has been a culture that is focused on collaboration, shared values, peer feedback to improve client value and the delivery of successful projects.

Our operating model is nonhierarchical, and the team has significant influence over its work, which boosts retention, morale and wellbeing. We deliberately don't use job titles, as they serve no purpose in consulting organisations.

Clear values guide the team in decisions and behaviours, against which team members can check themselves and each other. They share in our financial success, which motivates them to meet business objectives. Our values shape the way we work with clients and are at the heart of everything we do.

Even before the pandemic, we largely worked virtually. I've never been a fan of consultancies having offices – I'd rather the team were spending time at home with their families when not away on client jobs. That is time far better spent than managing internal perceptions and politics in an office.

### How does your culture encourage innovation?

Our ethos is based on self-management and mutual trust. Our people describe this unique approach as innovative, refreshing and sincere. It enables us to value long-term relationships with our clients, deliver success for them and allows our people to thrive.

We've attracted experts, who are drawn by the culture, and we operate a policy of only recruiting people from industry. Teams are self-managing, because the people closest to the challenge are best placed and motivated to decide how something should be organised. This allows the consulting team the freedom to address problems themselves and come up with innovative solutions, rather than passing challenges up the chain of command.

"Clear values guide the team in decisions and behaviours, against which team members can check themselves and each other"

### How are your benefits unique?

Since founding Hatmill 13 years ago, the growth and success of the company have been beyond my wildest dreams, and in 2021, I transferred 100% of shares to an employee-owned trust for the benefit of employees.

It was such a proud moment – transferring ownership into my amazing team's hands has ensured that Hatmill's culture and values live on, which was one of the most important considerations for any next chapter for the company. Creating a 'great place to work' is fundamental to my business principles, and being employee-owned has helped drive an increase in turnover and calibre of clients, as demonstrated by our latest results.

This is a key differentiator between Hatmill and our competitors, and our clients value the difference it makes to them. It hugely influences our ability to both attract and retain the very best talent in the industry. Our people are entirely responsible for our success – it is only fair that they benefit from Hatmill's success.

## Best Workplaces<sup>™</sup> 2023 Small: 20-50 employees



Hatmill		15 OpenRent	
1 Hatmill hatmill.co.uk	& Hatmill	openrent.co.uk	OpenRent
2 ResourceiT resourceit.net	Resource T	16 AOK Events aokevents.com	<u>A05</u>
3 monday.com monday.com	//. monday.com	17 Covernet www.cover.net	(T) covernet
4 BlakYaks blakyaks.com	BlakYaks	18 Law 365 law 365.co	(h)
5 edison365 edison365.com	edison365	19 Blacklist Creative blacklistcreative.com	BLACKLIST
6 Propellernet propellernet.co.uk	Propellernet	Ackerman Pierce www.ackermanpierce.com	Xckerman Pierce
7 Forward Role www.forwardrole.com	FORWARDROLE	21 Morgan King Group morganking.co.uk	MorganKing Group
8 ID Comms idcomms.com		22 Happy happy.co.uk	happy Creating joy at work
9 Kingston Barnes kingstonbarnes.com	KINGSTON BARNES	23 LACE Partners lacepartners.co.uk	LACE Partners
Aspire Scientific aspire-scientific.com	aspire	24 Signify Technology signifytechnology.com	SIGNIFY
Thryve Talent thryvetalent.com	THR	25 The Marketing Pod marketingpod.com	pod the marketing
Camino Partners caminopartners.co.uk	::: camino partners	26 15 Marketing 15 marketing.co.uk	15
UP3 Services Ltd up3.co.uk	U <sup>3</sup>	27 Deltra Group deltragroup.com	Deltra.
14 Word Monster wordmonster.agency	<b>√ord</b> monster*	Alation Inc alation.com	Alation



New New	Eulogy eulogy.co.uk	Eulogy	New 77	Sago sago.com	SĀGO
82 62	Advancing Analytics advancinganalytics.co.uk		New 78	The Recruitment Crowd (TRC Group) therecruitmentcrowd.com	tre
New 63	Mantle mantlespace.co.uk	MANTLE	79	Language is Everything Ltd languageiseverything.com	Language
64	383 Project 383project.com	283	≥80	Generis	30 YEARS
65	Katté & Co katteand.co	Katté & Co.	≥ 81	generiscorp.com PhoreMost	<b>S</b> éneris
New Second	Evo Agency evo.agency	EVO	Nev	phoremost.com	PHOREMOST
<b>2</b> 67	Peru Consulting peruconsulting.co.uk	PERU	82 New	Walr walr.com	🖤 walr.
≥ 68	Citipost Mail	CONSULTING	83	Achievers achievers.com	Achievers
× 68	citipostmail.co.uk Climate X	CITIPOST MAIL	84	Risk Management	centor
New 69	climate-x.com	CLIMATE X	≥ 85	EnableX Ltd	RISK MANAGEMENT
70	firstlight group firstlightgroup.io	firstlight	85 N N N N	enablex.co.uk	enableX
N 71	Richard Nelson LLP richardnelsonllp.co.uk	Richard Nelson LLP	86	Sullivan & Stanley sullivanstanley.com	S&S
<b>72</b>	Glassmoon Services glassmoonservices.co.uk	() glassmoon services itd	87 Nove Nove Nove Nove Nove Nove Nove Nove	BestOutcome bestoutcome.com	BestOutcome
73	Zoocha zoocha.com	ZOOCHA	New 88	In Digital indigital.marketing	Digital
74 New	Unipro Limited unipro.io	unipro	89 N	Uponor uponor.com	uponor
75	esynergy esynergy.co.uk	≝ esynergy	90	Pentadel Project Management pentadel.com	Pentadel Project Management
76	Active International activeinternational.co.uk	ACTIVE	91	Ecology Resources ecologyresources.co.uk	ECOLOGY

### UK RANKINGS

То

92 hedgehog lab hedgehoglab.com	hedgehog lab	97 Aer Studios aerstudios.co.uk	creative technology
93 IEMA iema.net	IEMA	98 Computer Task Group UK ctg.com	CTG'
<b>94</b> Beyond Analysis puttingdatatowork.com		99 emerchantpay emerchantpay.com	emerchantpay
95 Red Ant Digital Ltd redant.com	red	Global Lingo global-lingo.com	GLOBAL
96 Green Gourmet Ltd greengourmet.co.uk	GREEN	Discover more about thes Best Workplace list make	THE REAL PROPERTY AND INCOME.

greatplacetowork.co.uk



### Great Place The Global Authority Work on Workplace Culture

We survey the world. 90+ countries and languages. Thousands of companies. Millions of employees.



# 'Braze's purpose is to create meaningful connections'

Culture is everything at software company Braze. **Marjorie Armitage**, General Manager, EMEA, explains why the company is this year's No. 1 Best Workplace<sup>™</sup> (Medium)

### How have you risen from ranking No. 35 in 2022 to taking the top spot just 12 months later?

Braze's culture is not something you describe, it's something you feel. I interview a lot of job candidates in my role, and I'm usually asked to describe our culture. I never prepare an answer to that question.

I feel so passionate about our culture, I know that the words will flow effortlessly, with enthusiasm and a big smile. People will just feel it and want to feel that way too. This year, it's simply how our employees feel about Braze that shone through and put us at number one.

### How do you engage your workforce with training and development?

Our comprehensive onboarding programme enables employees to get to know Braze right from the get go. From there, we have a learning platform that enables employees to educate themselves on the company and products at their own pace, plus self-development courses and manager training. They can also continue learning externally with the support of our tuition reimbursement scheme.

We have promotion cycles twice a year, and I typically encourage everyone



"Our culture is about creating connections between our employees"

to ask for promotion every time they are eligible to according to our company guidelines. It's important to self-reflect and be able to identify and articulate the value that you're bringing to the table. It's a good exercise for managers as well, to learn how to handle promotion discussions. By encouraging regular and open career discussions, we intend to level the playing field for all and, ideally, to diminish inequities in career opportunities and progression. By openly talking about these things, we show our workforce that their careers matter to the company.

### What are the most important things you've learnt this year?

No matter how passionate about our culture our employees may be, asking them to complete yet another survey is adding to their to-do list, and the ask needs to be made respectfully and humbly. We don't take it for granted that they will complete the survey and give good ratings.

We explain why it matters, both to our employees – for whom it gives a sense of pride – and to prospective job candidates, customers and partners, who want to work with a company that treats its employees well.

The Best Workplace<sup>™</sup> programme has helped our visibility as a prospective employer. A lot of candidates mention our rankings – it sets us apart.

While we do internal employee surveys globally, we also got great additional local insights from the Best Workplace<sup>™</sup> metrics to inform our actions in the UK.

### Why do people look forward to coming to work at Braze?

Our culture is about creating connections between our employees. One of our six values is 'Take your seat at the table'. We want employees to be active participants in the company. This doesn't mean you need to lead an employee resource group or organise events. Being an ally, attending an event or even simply showing up for others can be very meaningful.

Being nice makes for a well-rounded, inclusive and open-minded culture that leads to a happy workforce, which, in turn, is good for our customers and further feeds our success. It's our superpower and we're proud of it.

# **Best Workplaces<sup>®</sup> 2023** Medium: 51-250 employees



Recast

PRACTICOS

-

index.dev

GOODMAN MASSON

Xpedition

MERCATOR

The Berkeley Partnership

QUORSUS

klaviyo"

World Wide Technology

unilrog

Person Centred Software

R

1	Braze braze.com	braze	16 Recast Sports Limited recast.tv	
2	Evolved Search evolvedsearch.co.uk	evolved.	17 Practicus Limited practicus.com	
Nev 3	Reachdesk reachdesk.com	Reachdesk	18 Nomios UK&I nomios.co.uk	
A A	Elements Talent Consultancy weareelements.io	elements	19 Index index.dev	
New 5	Bryson bryson.co.uk	bryson> Smarter, Faster, Greener,*	20 Goodman Masson	
6	Impression impression.co.uk	IMPRESSION	goodmanmasson.com 21 Xpedition	
7	PlotBox www.plotbox.io	PLOTBOX	22 Mercator Digital mercatordigital.com	
New 8	SquaredUp squaredup.com	SquaredUp		vare
۹ New	Talos360 talos360.co.uk	Talos360	23 Person Centred Software.co personcentredsoftware.co 24 The Berkeley Partnership LLP berkeleypartnership.com	m
New 10	Salesloft salesloft.com	Salesloft.	Partnership LLP berkeleypartnership.com	
A Nov Nov Nov Nov Nov Nov Nov Nov Nov Nov	Synthesia synthesia.io	🖸 synthesia	25 Quorsus quorsus.com	
	Silver Cloud HR silvercloudhr.co.uk	SEVER	26 Klaviyo klaviyo.com	
	Sellick Partnership sellickpartnership.co.uk	Sellick Partnership Recruitment Specialists	27 World Wide Technolo wwt.com	gy
14	Tomorrow tomorrowgroup.co	TOMORROW	28 Unifrog unifrog.org	
<u>≥</u> 15	Banked banked.com	Banked :	29 Uptake Strategies uptakestrategies.com	

30	Coeo coeo.com	Coeo	47	BigC bigco
8 31 N	Simpson Associates simpson-associates.co.uk	Simpson Associates	<b>Nov</b> 48	Al-D aldab
New 32	Intersoft intersoft.co.uk	ITERSOFT	49	Edrir Distr uk.ed
33	Ryan ryan.com/europe	Ryan)	50	Wisc wisdo
34 N	G Touring travelsphere.co.uk	G Touring	8 51 Nev N	Zifo <sup>*</sup>
35	PEN Partnership penpartnership.com		<b>Z</b> 52	Asto
36	Redkite redkite.com	REDKITE	Nev 23	Natio
37	Technology Management Ltd tecman.co.uk	tecman		
38	Alnylam UK Ltd alnylam.com	2 Alnylam	<b>54</b>	Altai altair Scar
39	KnowBe4 KnowBe4.com/careers	KnewBe4	8 55 N N N S S S	scano
40 8 8 8	Strata strata.co.uk	strafa	<b>Nev</b> 56 57	garris AXO
41	Airwalk Reply airwalkreply.com			axon
A 42	Instil instil.co/about	INSTIL	New 58	
43	SentinelOne sentinelone.com	(i) SentinelOne:	59	Trac tracto
Men 44	Seven Resourcing seven-resourcing.com	seven	60	Carr carre
≱ 45 v	Harvey Nash UK harveynash.co.uk	Harvey Nash.	61	Moo moos
46	Grace's Day Nursery gracesdaynursery.co.uk	Grace's	62	Xled xledg

47	BigCommerce	
	bigcommerce.com	BIGCOMMERCE
≥ 48	Al-Dabbagh Group	
AeV NeV	aldabbagh.com	AlexDabbagh
49	Edrington UK Distribution	cilo
	uk.edrington.com	EDRINGTON
50	WisdomTree	- PERMIT
	wisdomtree.eu	WISDOMTREE
≥ 51	Zifo Technology	
8 51 8 2 8	zifornd.com	Zifo
52	Astound Commerce	
	astoundcommerce.com	A astound
≥ 53	National Gas Metering	
Nev Nev	nationalgas.com/metering	A national gas
		metering
≥ 54	Altair	Λ
3 54 N N	altair.com	ALTAIR
≥ 55	Scandit	
80 SS	scandit.com	SCANDIT
≥ 56	Garrison Technology Ltd	
Nev 20	garrison.com	GARRISON
57	AXON	and and all
	axon-com.com	AXON
≥ 58	Wise	
Nev	withwise.com	wise.
59	Tractable Ltd	
	tractable.ai	Tractable
60	Cameron Homes	
	camerongalliers.co.uk	🔰 CAMERON
/1	Moose Toys	
61	Moose Toys moosetoys.com	Cmoose
		<b>W</b>
62	Xledger xledger.com/uk	Xxledge
	xieuger.com/ uk	I Neuger

20 uk\_info@greatplacetowork.com



5 Special Recognition: five years as a Best Workplace" 10 Notable Recognition: ten years as a Best Workplace"

894 Nev Nev	Aventum Group aventumgroup.com	AVENTUM
85 New	Jumar jumar.co.uk	Jumar
96	Powerforce Field Marketing and Retail Services Ltd powerforcegb.com	
97	Rimini Street riministreet.com	Rimini Street
88 New	CarePlanner care-planner.co.uk	Care Planner
99	WP Engine wpengine.com	weengine
100	Lansons lansons.com	LANSONS LONDON NEW YORK



UK RANKINGS

# Best Workplaces<sup>™</sup> announcements coming soon...

### JULY 2023

Best Workplaces for Women™

### SEPTEMBER 2023

Best Workplaces in Tech<sup>™</sup> Best Workplaces in Financial Services & Insurance<sup>™</sup> Best Workplaces in Consulting & Professional Services<sup>™</sup> Europe's Best Workplaces<sup>™</sup>

### **NOVEMBER 2023**

World's Best Workplaces<sup>™</sup>

Follow us for the latest updates: @GPTW\_UK in Great Place to Work UK



# 'You won't find our values painted in bold colours on our campus walls'

NVIDIA is this year's No. 1 Best Workplace<sup>™</sup> (Large) for the second year running. **Rebecca Ebdon**, Regional HR Manager, outlines its commitments to employees and the wider world

### How have you sustained your first-place ranking?

Despite the upheaval around the world, NVIDIA's priorities as a tech company have remained constant – taking care of

our families, empowering our people to do their life's work, and solving the world's hardest problems. Receiving this accolade twice in a row is a rewarding reflection of the kind of workplace we strive to create for all our employees. We believe in

doing the right thing, not just what's prescribed by policies or processes, and our employees trust in this. We value each NVIDIAN, and earn their loyalty with a culture that's compassionate, flexible and inclusive. Our success is thanks to our people's hard work, so our priority is to take care of them and their families.

#### 

From our CEO, Jensen Huang: "It is a core value at NVIDIA that we take on only the toughest problems with the promise of the biggest impact, where we can make a unique contribution."

We're continuously improving our practices for inclusive recruiting, engaging with developers in emerging markets and fostering science, technology, engineering and maths education. To help bridge

the digital divide between developers in the global North and those in emerging markets, we launched a programme that enables communities in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and South Asia to build and scale their artificial intelligence, data science and graphics projects.

We're making bold investments in climate science. We're also sharply focused on energy efficiency.

### How do you ensure your values are meaningful to the workforce, every day?

We invoke five core values – innovation, intellectual honesty, speed and agility, excellence and determination, and one team – in every aspect of our work, and they set us apart from other companies. Our values reflect and inspire a company made up largely of engineers, who innovate, explore and test the boundaries of what they can do every day.

You won't find our values painted in bold colours on our campus walls or splashed across branded T-shirts. Instead, NVIDIA leaders show our values in practice in countless ways. They inform everything we do – coming together in teams, designing complex chips, learning from failures, pivoting when the market changes, and putting our employees and families first. We further communicate our values to employees through a company-wide speaker series, stories on our internal news portal, and a new video collection dubbed 'Inside NVIDIA'.

### How do your values affect your HR metrics and NVIDIA's bottom line?

When we recruit promising young talent, we emphasise that we want them to stay and build their careers with us. We believe that the longer you work somewhere, the more institutional knowledge you have.

Tech companies have the highest attrition rates of any sector, with several reports citing median tenures between one and three years. But at NVIDIA, the average tenure in the UK is 5.5 years – similar to our global average, despite thousands being hired in recent years.

Even with 25,000-plus employees worldwide, our CEO and the executive team look at the company like it's a startup – a perspective that has helped NVIDIA grow to become one of the world's most valuable companies.



MAGE: NVIDIA

# Best Workplaces<sup>™</sup> 2023 Large: 251-1,000 employees



1	NVIDIA nvidia.com		16	Financial Services	MØBILIZE FINANCIAL SERVICES
2	Slalom slalom.com	slalom	New 17	YEARS	Active Prospects
3	Credera UK credera.co.uk	CREDERA	<b>2</b> 18	Biogen Idec Ltd biogen.com	Biogen
4	Lindt & Sprüngli UK Ltd lindt.com		19	Oxford PharmaGenesis pharmagenesis.com	PharmaGenesis
5	xDesign careers.xdesign.com	XDESIGN	20	Stryker stryker.com/gb/en	stryker
6	The Trade Desk thetradedesk.com	() theTradeDesk	21	Little Dot Studios littledotstudios.com	LITTLE DOT STUDIOS
7 New	Phoenix Software phoenixs.co.uk	PHOENIX	22	RiverStone International rsml.co.uk	RiverStone
8	Red Hat UK Limited redhat.com	Red Hat	23	Smart Pension smart.co	5 Smart
9	Thoughtworks thoughtworks.com	/thoughtworks	24	W.L. Gore & Associates (UK) Ltd gore.com	GORE
10	Intuit Quickbooks quickbooks.intuit.com/uk	@ quickbooks	25	Xero xero.com	xero
11	Liberty IT liberty-it.co.uk	Liberty. Information Technology	26	Natilik natilik.com	NATILIK
12		Secure Trust	27	Fittleworth Medical Ltd fittleworth.com	O <sub>fittleworth</sub>
13	CrowdStrike crowdstrike.com	CROWDSTRIKE	28 New New	Ansys ansys.com	Ansys
14	Confused.com confused.com	Confused.@	29	SC Johnson scjohnson.com	scjohnson
<mark>у 15</mark>	Robert Half roberthalf.co.uk	Th Robert Half	30	Discover Financial Services discover.com	DISCOVER

31 REL Field Marketing relfm.com		Man Nav	TransUnion transunion.co.uk	TransUnion
232 Love2Shop www.appreciategroup.co.uk		49	The All England Lawn Tennis Club wimbledon.com	
<b>PKF Francis Clark</b> pkf-francisclark.co.uk	PKF FRANCIS CLARK Shared Ambition	50	Egress egress.com	© egress
34 Student Beans studentbeans.com/uk	SB	51		LAITHWAITES
35 Moneypenny moneypenny.com/uk	Moneypenny	52	Chiesi chiesi.uk.com	Chiesi
Assurant assurant.com	C ASSURANT	Nev 53	BHP LLP bhp.co.uk	4
37 Ombudsman Services ombudsman-services.org	C Ombudsman Services	<b>ž</b> 54		8IPSEN
38 Havas Lynx Group havaslynx.com	LYNX GROUP	≥ 55	Virtusa Consulting	Innovation for patient care
39 Ares Management aresmgmt.com	ØARES	Nev Nev	Services Pvt Ltd virtusa.com	virtusa
Citadel Enterprise citadel.com	CITADEL	56	Bacardi bacardilimited.com	BACARDI
41 De Lage Landen Leasing Limited		57	UST ust.com	U • S T
dllgroup.com 42 Rygor Commercials		<b>Nev</b> 28	Learning Pool learningpool.com	
242 Rygor Commercials rygor.co.uk 243 Microlise Limited	RYGOR Setty Statest	59	The Oldham College oldham.ac.uk	O Oldham College
microlise.com	microlise	New 60	Bytes Software Services	BYTES
elavon.co.uk	Elavon			UTILS
45 L'Occitane en Provence uk.loccitane.com	L'OCCITANE	New 19	MICHAEL KORS michaelkors.com	MICHAEL KORS
46 HelloFresh hellofreshgroup.com	FRESH	62	Checkatrade checkatrade.com	Checkatrade
47 General Mills generalmills.com	General	63	Borders College borderscollege.ac.uk	BORDERS

64	bpha bpha.org.uk	bpha 🍲	<b>New 16</b>	Gambling Commission gamblingcommission.gov.uk	GAMBLING COMMISSION
65	The Farnborough Airport Company farnboroughairport.com	FARNBOROUGH	<b>Nev</b> 77	Camlin Group camlingroup.com/kelvatek	camlin
66	TIP Group tip-group.com	TIP GROUP	78	Procook Ltd procook.co.uk	ProCook
2 67	Ethos Farm ethosfarm.com		79	AlphaSights alphasights.com	5
2 68	Mimecast mimecast.com	mimecast	New New	Norton Way Motors Limited	NORTON WAY
69		Charlie Bigham's	81 No No No	Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult ore.catapult.org.uk	
70	Broadridge Financial Services broadridge.com	Broadridge	82	Webbs Garden Centre Limited webbsdirect.co.uk	Webbs
71	Kin + Carta kinandcarta.com	KIN+CARTA	83 83	GEODIS FF UK geodis.com/gb	GEODIS REEP RISING
72	Ivanti UK Limited	ivanti	84 N	ClearCourse Partnership clearcourse.co.uk	ClearCourse <sup>(2)</sup> Working better together
73	Ipsen Wrexham ipsen.com/uk	8IPSEN	85 85	Littleport Mushroom Farms Ltd gs-fresh.com	Gs
74	Brayleys Cars Ltd brayleys.co.uk	Brayleys	86 New	IMA-HOME imahome.global	IMA HOME
75	HML hmlgroup.com	O HML	87 87	Alliance Homes alliancehomes.org.uk	Alliance
/5		O HML	Nev	alliancehomes.org.uk	Allian homes

### Get Certified. greatplacetowork.co.uk/ get-certified



Discover more about these Best Workplace list makers at greatplacetowork.co.uk



5 Special Recognition: five years as a Best Workplace" 10 Notable Recognition: ten years as a Best Workplace"

### UK RANKINGS

# 'It's about really listening to our teams and not just putting a corporate narrative out there'

Authenticity is one of the watchwords at tech multinational Cisco, which has been ranked this year's No. 1 Best Workplace<sup>™</sup> (Super Large). **David Meads**, Chief Executive, UK & Ireland, explains

### How have employees helped Cisco face its challenges this year?

The foundation of how we address any challenge is to be transparent, very open and make sure that, as leaders in the business, we are willing to have and highlight difficult conversations. How the leadership team shows up matters. It's about demonstrating our vulnerabilities and authenticity.

Reflecting on the first year of the pandemic and how we were forced to operate helped us come together more closely as a team than we might have done otherwise. Now it's about really listening to the concerns of our teams and not just putting a corporate narrative out there.

The broader challenge we face is balancing exceptional productivity with flexibility and learning. Early in my career, I learned a great deal from the people I was in close proximity to. I wasn't just studying a curriculum put in front of me but listening and observing. As wonderful as technology is, it's no substitute for that. We want to make sure people have the flexibility to work where, when and how they want. We also want to make

sure that they don't miss out on opportunities to learn from others.

### How is work-life balance part of your offer?

"EMBRACE

DIFFERENCE.

AND THAT IS

WHERE YOU

CAN BE

**GREATER THAN** 

THE SUM OF

YOUR PARTS"

It's a fairly simple principle – we measure people by their output, not their input. This is the bedrock of how we operate – people are accountable for delivering whatever they have to within their role, but they have the freedom do it on their own terms. This is the normal rhythm of working. There are also a couple of practical things we do. In addition to five weeks' annual leave, we give people an extra 10 days of 'time to give', plus 'a day for me' every quarter, in which every employee gets a day off, among other policies.

### How is your DEI strategy genuinely inclusive?

For us, diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) is top down. Embrace difference, and that is where you can be greater than the sum of your parts. When hiring someone in the leadership team, for example, I'm looking at whether they're the best person to do the job. But that's only half of the decision-making process. The other half is asking whether they will bring something completely new to the table that will make us more

powerful as a team.

These are the tangible things we do in making sure our interview panels are diverse and inclusive. We also have inclusive communities within the workforce, which are given a platform to educate the organisation and to have conversations. It's about living and embracing DEI in everything we do.

### You've been ranked a Best Workplace<sup>™</sup> for nine years in a row. How do you do it?

Again, leaders set the example for the organisation – how they are operating, being authentic and consistent in the decisions they make. We have guiding principles for what we call our conscious culture – 'give your best', 'give your ego the day off', 'give something of yourself', 'take accountability in everything that you do', 'take difference to heart'. You can think in the moment, 'Am I living those values?'.

These values are the guiding principles for how we operate – the decisions we take with one another, with customers, internally and externally. This is how we see ourselves moving forward in the right direction as a company.

## Best Workplaces<sup>®</sup> 2023 Super Large: 1,001+ employees



1	Cisco cisco.com	alialia cisco	16	AbbVie abbvie.co.uk	abbvie
2	Hilton hilton.com/en/corporate	Hilton	17	Accenture accenture.com/gb-en	accenture
3	Salesforce salesforce.com	salesforce	18	BUUK Infrastructure bu-uk.co.uk	BUUK
4	Baringa baringa.com	🔆 Baringa	19	Irwin Mitchell irwinmitchell.com	(IM) irwinmitchell
5	Version 1 version1.com	VERSION 1	20	Shared Services Connected Ltd sscl.com	O SSCL
6	Admiral Group admiralgroup.co.uk		21	Volkswagen Financial Services (UK) Ltd customer.vwfs.co.uk	VOLKSWAGEN FINANCIAL SERVICES
7	Home Group Limited homegroup.org.uk	home	22	Sopra Steria Limited	
8	DHL Express dhl.com/express	-DHL	> 23	soprasteria.co.uk First Central Group	sopra 😋 steria
9	Vodafone UK vodafone.co.uk	<b>O</b> vodafone	23 New 23	firstcentralgroup.com The Prince's Trust	First Central
10	Softcat plc softcat.com	Softcat	24	princes-trust.org.uk	Prince's Trust
11	Insight Direct (UK) Ltd uk.insight.com	Insight. <sup>‡†</sup>	25	Gowling WLG (UK) LLP gowlingwlg.com	
12	Deloitte LLP deloitte.com/uk	Deloitte.	26	TeamSport Indoor Karting team-sport.co.uk	Team5port
13	Coventry Building Society coventrybuildingsociety.co.uk	COVENTRY Building Society	27	Experian Ltd experianplc.com	
<mark>ма</mark> 14	Childbase Partnership childbasepartnership.com	Childbase Partnership	<b>Nev</b> 28	Gleeds UK gb.gleeds.com	gleeds
15	IRIS Software Group iris.co.uk	IRIS	29	Dimensions dimensions-uk.org	▼ dimensions

30	Flight Centre Travel Group flightcentre.co.uk	FLIGHT CENTRE TRAVEL GROUP	80 2 2	Infosys infosys.com	Infosys Navigate your next
31	Verisk verisk.com	Verisk.	46	Choice Support choicesupport.org.uk	Choice Support
32	Santander UK santander.co.uk	📣 Santander	47	McCarthy & Stone mccarthyandstone.co.uk	McCARTHY STONE
New 33	Computacenter computacenter.com	Computacenter	48	Northumbrian Water Group nwl.co.uk	NWG living water
34	Abbott Laboratories Ltd abbott.com	Abbott	49	Hafod Housing Association Ltd hafod.org.uk	Hafod
New 35	Expedia Group expediagroup.com	extendia group	50	Places for People placesforpeople.co.uk	Places for People
New 36	Capgemini UK plc capgemini.com	Capgemini	<b>Nev</b> 51	Bromford bromford.co.uk	Bromford.
37	Teleperformance teleperformance.com		New 52	Ambient Support ambient.org.uk	ambient
38	NHS Shared Business Services sbs.nhs.uk	Shared Business Services	<b>2</b> 53	L&Q lggroup.org.uk	Passionate About People
39	Bright Horizons Family Solutions brighthorizons.co.uk	Bright Horizons.	54		hyperophic
40 New New	TrustFord trustford.co.uk	TrustFord	Nev 25	DHL Parcel UK track.dhlparcel.co.uk	_DHL_
41	Utilita utilita.co.uk	utilita	New 26	American Restaurant and Cocktail Bar, Fridays	(FRIDAYS)
42	HomeServe Limited homeserve.com	HomeServe	2 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8	tgifridays.co.uk Viridor viridor.co.uk	<b>V</b> iridor
Man Nav	KBR kbr.com	KBR			
A N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N	DHL Global Forwarding UK Ltd dhl.com/global-en/home/our- divisions/global-forwarding.html	DHL_	Be	cover more about these st Workplace list makers at eatplacetowork.co.uk	

To work with us, or for us, visit: www.distinctly.co



# DISTINCTLY

We are a **digital marketing agency** supercharging growth for ambitious businesses. We are proud to be a UK's Best Workplace<sup>™</sup> 2023.

Paid Media

### **Digital PR**

Great Place To Work₀ Certified

# Get Certified<sup>™</sup>



A great employee experience is your greatest competitive advantage...



Organic

Insights

Gain deeper insights into your workplace culture through our survey platform



Action

Benchmark against Best Workplace™ listmakers and discover best practices for continuous improvement



Recognition

Earn the brand benefit of national and global Certification™ and Best Workplaces™ recognition





### **ResourceiT is The Channel Marketing Agency.**

Being a **'great place to work'** means our passionate team loves what they do. It's reflected in the quality of our work, our interactions with customers and the outstanding results we deliver.

### So, if you're a technology company looking to:

Grow your business Drive ROI Develop your teams Maximise your investment **Reduce** your time to market **Deliver** results **Work** with great people

**Get in touch today** to find out why we are The Channel Marketing Agency with a mission to get you seen, heard and valued.

### Rank 3:





www.resourceit.net