

Christopher Michael Thierry CText FTI
UK Retail Connect Ltd - Managing Director

Christopher Thierry has been involved in fashion and textiles for over 50 years, gaining extensive knowledge and experience in this sector. He has a unique insight into the entire wool textile pipeline from farm to retail, covering the fashion apparel, sportswear, carpet and interior sectors. Chris's focus for the past 27 years has been the fibre of his mother livery, wool, gained mostly during the 20 years he marketed merino wool for the Woolmark Company and the Australian wool industry.

Chris commenced his career as a trainee retail student in retail sales before moving into fashion buying for the store group Bentalls, at the same time teaching textiles for Kingston College of Education, now Kingston University. Other well-known retailers, Chris worked for during these early years were the Alders Store Group, Topman, then owned by the Burton Group, Lewis's Store Group and Owen Owen Store Group, where he was Buying Director until moving into marketing.

Chris started his own successful consultancy UK Retail Connect Ltd in 2010 to use his experience and network of contacts to help overseas companies who seek introductions to UK retailers or manufacturers and companies who want to learn more about UK retail operations and, of course, wool.

Chris is closely involved in the voluntary sector as a Board Director and Fellow of the ASBCI one of the leading UK trade associations where he founded the ASBCI Student Membership programme the largest in the UK. Chris chaired this for almost 15 years before stepping down to focus on his duties for The Worshipful Company of Woolmen. Other voluntary bodies the Master was associated with was the UKFT, the UK's leading trade association, where he was a Director. Chris is also a Fellow of the Textile Institute and Council member, serving as Chairman of the South East & London Section of the Textile Institute for almost five years.

Chris lives in Surrey with his wife, Shirley. They have two children and six grandchildren. His daughter, Holly, lives nearby with four of their grandchildren, all boys, and his son, Nicholas, has two girls and lives in Calgary Canada. To relax Chris loves gardening, along with DIY and music.

Mrs Carol Thierry, is Chris's sister-in-Law, will be acting as his Consort during his year in office.