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National award for mum



■ Katherine Skupien winning DSA Award

Grays-based, Katherine Skupien has been awarded a 'Star of the Year' Award at the UK's Annual Direct Selling Awards.

The national awards, hosted by the Direct Selling Association (DSA), recognise the best individuals in the industry at an annual ceremony, held this year at the Leicester Marriott Hotel.

Katherine, of Grays, Essex, decided when her daughter was born that, in order to spend as much time at home with her as possible, she'd need a source of income that offered flexibility as well as freedom, to supplement her successful, but time intensive, photography business.

Following a recommendation from a friend, Katherine joined MONAT as a Market Partner and has never looked back.

MONAT is a vegan haircare brand with a mission to help people everywhere enjoy beautiful, healthy, fulfilling lives through

exceptional, naturally based products.

Katherine quickly built a strong customer base which has now grown to over 250 people.

Over 425,000 people work in direct selling in the UK, and the £2.1 billion industry includes some of the UK's best-known and most-loved brands, including Avon, The Body Shop at Home and Neal's Yard Remedies Organic.

More people make money through direct selling than any other type of independent part time work in the UK, typically doing so around another job or family commitments.

The 'Star of the Year' accolade is awarded to an individual in recognition for their exceptional contribution.

Andy Smith, Chairman of the Direct Selling Association, said: "This year's awards saw some exceptional nominations made by companies showcasing some of the very best talent in our industry. Congratulations to all our winners."