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<u>Tillery Valley invests in the future of local Welsh Economy</u>

Award-winning national meal provider, Tillery Valley, has released figures of over £6 million that has gone directly back into the Welsh economy. Over two-thirds of which has been invested into Welsh farming produce, used for the main ingredients of Abertillery-based, Tillery Valley's chilled and frozen meals.

The South Wales Valleys alone this year have benefitted from almost £1.5 million of local purchases from Tillery Valley, providing vital financial opportunities for businesses and encouraging the development of much needed jobs within the region. Tillery Valley is committed to sourcing local suppliers and has many long-term business partnerships throughout the South Wales area. At a time when a lot of companies source services abroad to cut costs, this benefits a multi-section of industries, providing revenue for engineering, maintenance, storage and distribution, and health and safety services.

Tillery Valley is the largest employer in Abertillery, employing more than 350 people. The organisation primarily supplies chilled and frozen food to the healthcare sector and delivers to approximately 120 hospitals and trusts around the UK. In 2010, the company received the Gold Food Hygiene Award.

DW Refrigeration Limited based in Cardiff has worked with Tillery Valley for the past year to provide refrigeration and air conditioning to the food site in Abertillery. With a staff of just seven, the company has a turnover of between 1.5 and 2 million. Their contract with Tillery Valley is worth almost £350,000. Managing Director David Whitcombe said: "It is important for us to work with other local businesses to ensure that we are re-investing in the Welsh economy.

We have an excellent working relationship with Tillery Valley and are pleased to be a valued supplier".

Phil Hall, site director, Tillery Valley says: "The quality of welsh products, both food and non-foods and other services available in Wales is impeccable. The companies we work with offer such a fantastic service with a friendly, professional approach that is cost-effective – we don't need to look further for a huge amount of what we require to produce the foods we do at Tillery Valley. The benefits of sourcing and purchasing locally are numerous. Tillery Valley is investing in the local economy, contributing to workforces and we are environmentally productive by operating low food miles and cutting emissions by keeping travel as low as possible. Sustainability is key to all of Tillery Valley's business objectives."