

Subject: Invitation to respond - Marks & Spencer in our COVID-19 tracker

Thank you for the invitation for us to explain what we are doing to support our clothing suppliers.

The impact of COVID-19 across the clothing sector is completely unprecedented and has been felt acutely by both retailers and our suppliers. We are very proud to have strong long-term relationships with our clothing suppliers; in fact, we have worked with over 70% of our supply base for over seven years.

Most importantly, we are managing our supply so that we have a viable business on the other side of this. And secondly, we remain committed to our Global Sourcing Principles. These outline how we work with suppliers in relation to human rights, sustainability and decent working conditions – these are available on our website and are fundamental to how we do business.

In summary:

- *We are paying for all shipped products*
- *We will pay for all made garments that have not yet been shipped*
- *We are continuing to offer vendor finance and letters of credit meaning suppliers get early access to cash regardless of payment terms*
- *Our previous standard payment terms were 75 days which have been extended to 120 days in response to Covid-19*
- *We have not requested a discount for any orders*
- *Where production is beginning to recommence, we have you taken all precautionary steps to ensure suppliers are implementing safe guarding measures to protect garment workers. This includes social distancing, sanitising practices, providing adequate protective equipment and additional awareness training about the virus.*

More widely, we fully support the efforts of the Ethical Trading Initiative and our partner the International Labour Organization who are facilitating the coordination and distribution of emergency relief funds, supporting safe working where manufacturing continues and co-ordinating an industry-wide response and we have endorsed the “COVID-19: Action in the Global Garment Industry” which you can read on the ILO's website.

We are also involved in submitting proposals to DFID to support their COVID-19 Vulnerable Supply Chains Facility (VSCF), to form partnerships that support and respond to the challenges that COVID-19 presents within DFID-priority countries and ensure the most vulnerable workers and suppliers are prepared for the anticipated economic and social shocks.

Thank you once again for getting in touch, and if of interest, you can find out more about our company-wide response to Covid-19 on our [All in the Together webpage](#).