Apple supplier investigated by China Labour Watch for unsafe and unclean conditions, HP also named as a customer

On January 16, 2018, China Labour Watch (CLW) published a report detailing poor working conditions at Catcher Technology, a supplier of parts for major technology brands including HP Inc. The report, which is based on undercover investigation and interviews, revealed major violations of labour rights and safety conditions.

HP Response to customers and investors related to this report March 2018

Thank you for your inquiry on Monday March 5, regarding Catcher Technology and the report from China Labor Watch (CLW) referenced in your email.

HP is committed to the highest standards of business conduct and maintains robust compliance programs to ensure our suppliers adhere to HP's standards everywhere in the world. HP investigates all incidents and credible allegations and takes appropriate action if violations are found. Regarding Catcher Technology and the CLW report specifically, we are able to provide the following information:

1.   The China Labor Watch and the recent media attention has focused on Catcher Suqian, a factory that does not manufacture HP products. While manufacturing does occur on behalf of HP at the same general site, it occurs in a different Catcher factory.

2.   HP requires regular 3rd party audits on key manufacturing sites, and the most recent audit in the Catcher factory manufacturing HP products was conducted in December 2017. The December 2017 audit followed the RBA's Validated Assessment Process and audited against the then-current RBA Code. The audit did uncover potential violations of the RBA Code and HP standards. The facility is currently engaged in a corrective action plan to fix these issues.

3.   In addition to the 3rd party audit, we are sending our own HP badged certified auditor to the site to review the findings and ensure the site complies with our requirements. This auditor will address any CLW report allegations that were not addressed in the December 2017 audit against the February 2018 update to the RBA Code.