**A Primark spokesperson said:**

“Ensuring workers are paid is of paramount importance to Primark and COVID-19 has not in any way altered our commitment to this principle. To support our suppliers in their ability to pay workers during the pandemic we set up a fund to make sure workers were paid as soon as possible for Primark product in production. When our stores were able to reopen we committed to pay in full for all garments both finished and in production as well as any finished fabric costs incurred for Primark prior to the stores closing in March. This ensures that our suppliers can pay the wages for work done on Primark product.”

“Since stores reopened in July, we have also been able to place £1.25bn of orders for autumn/winter, a significant investment into the supply chain. As of today, more than half our stores are closed again due to the pandemic. We will honour all current orders placed with our suppliers.

“We are committed to playing our part in protecting the jobs of millions who work in the supply chain, which is why we are actively involved in the ILO-led Global Call To Action.”

ENDS

Notes to editors:

Suppliers

* 3 April - we established a wages fund to make sure workers were paid as soon as possible for Primark product in production. Over £23m was paid out, which in effect became an advance on the wage component of the £370m of orders that were finished and/or in production.
* 20 April - we committed to taking an additional £370m of orders finished and/or in production.
* 22 April - we endorsed the ILO led Covid-19 Action in the Global Garment Industry, working towards a coordinated global response to ongoing industry-wide issues. We continue to play our part in this initiative and hope it will support the introduction or strengthening of schemes many of us take for granted, such as employment protection and health benefits for workers.
* 31 July – we committed to pay all our garment suppliers in full for all outstanding finished garments or any fabric liabilities and we place over £1.2bn of orders for the coming season.

Code of conduct and payment of wages

* Our Code of Conduct, which every factory making our products must commit to as a condition of doing business with us, states that wages must be paid in line with the law or industry benchmark, whichever is highest, and that wages must always be enough to meet basic needs and provide some discretionary income.
* Our Code is based on international standards of the UN’s International Labour Organisation. Our team of over 120 ethical trade experts audits every factory making Primark products at least once a year, sometimes more, to check that all the standards in the Code are being met, including checking that all suppliers pay wages in line with our Code.

Factories

* New Best Global Textile Co Ltd – This factory is no longer an approved Primark supplier and the last order was handed over in September 2019.
* KAC Fashionwear Limited – This factory was suspended in November 2019 and no further orders have been placed with this supplier
* Shinsung Tongsang International Co Ltd – This factory closed in May 2020 due to the pandemic, all workers were subsequently paid severance pay in line with the local regulations and we worked with SMART Myanmar, a recognised EU funded NGO, to verify the relevant documentation.