

Boohoo's response to Labour Behind the Label's rejoinder

It is wholly inaccurate to suggest that we have not been paying increased prices to suppliers over the last 18 months. Indeed, our Annual Report & Accounts includes a detailed write up of how we have been absorbing these costs to help protect prices for customers and many other businesses have made similar public statements. It is also worth noting that transport costs are not 'irrelevant' to UK suppliers, given the volume of fabric they source from international markets.

Unlike some other retailers who have chosen to walk away from Leicester, the boohoo group remains committed to supporting UK manufacturing and maintaining strategic partnerships with our suppliers. Our ethical compliance team visit manufacturers every day, building constructive relationships with suppliers and speaking to workers about any issues that may concern them. Our sourcing, quality and sustainability teams also support our suppliers to help them to maximise the quality of the products they manufacture and the longevity of their businesses. We are proud of the continued improvements we see in the audit ratings of our suppliers and look forward to increasing our order books as trade returns to growth in the near future. Our suppliers will also soon be able to take advantage of our new warehouse facility in the USA, giving them a fantastic opportunity to showcase their products to millions of new customers.

We know that other retailers and British businesses more broadly have also been negotiating lower prices with their suppliers, in line with the broader economic challenge the UK faces around persistent inflation. These are challenges faced by every industry at the moment, not just retail. We want to continue to deliver best value for our customers and the best way to do so is to identify where costs have fallen and ask our suppliers to reflect that.

7th July 2023