

Invitation to respond – Next in our 'Who pays for the crisis?' Tracker and Portal

Outline of allegations linked to Next :

Quantum Clothing Group

In August 2023, it was reported that over 10,000 garment workers from eight factories, including Quantum Clothing Group, had been suspended or terminated from July 2023, with the factories allegedly telling workers ahead of their suspension and termination that there were no raw materials, no buyers, and supply and demand were not equal.

Source:

- <https://cambojanews.com/union-ten-thousand-garment-workers-suspended-since-july/>

Next response 28.03.24:

The factory Quantum Clothing (Cambodia) Ltd is currently an active factory for Next. Our directly employed team on the ground audits this and our other Cambodia sites regularly in accordance with our Code of Practice approach.

We understand that the factory has reduced its capacity in the past year due to a fall in business, particularly from the US market. In March 2023, a total of 518 workers left the factory due to two reasons - either their Fixed Duration Contract (FDC) ended or they resigned. The factory provided a resignation package and our local team reviewed documentation to confirm the agreement made with each worker. There was no objection raised from either the workers or the local unions that we are aware of.

Between July and October 2023, a total of 47 workers were on temporary suspension for one to two months due to a reduction in business. The factory paid suspension compensation to each affected worker according to the local law, which at the time was USD40 from the government and USD30 from the factory. The factory also chose not to renew contracts with workers when their FDC ended. The total number of workers is now around 600.