

**[Sainsbury's Response re purchasing practices & exploitation in grower supply chains
(16/11/2023)]**

We are proud of the longstanding relationships we have with our suppliers and we are deeply committed to these partnerships. Each year we source over £2bn worth of British food and drink. Over the last 12 months, our suppliers have navigated significant cost inflation and we know it has been very challenging for many of them. To reflect these pressures, we have prioritised additional financial support for many key food supply chains, giving £66.4 million of additional support to British meat, dairy and produce farmers over the last year.

In addition to this support, we have invested in our longstanding farmer and grower Development Groups, which cover our main agriculture and horticulture value chains, to enable us to work with suppliers to help them become more resilient, sustainable and profitable, to overcome not only the current cost pressures they face but also future environmental challenges. In our horticulture supply chains we have over 30 different groups covering different types of crops where we meet with growers to understand their challenges and work together to find solutions.

The horticulture sector has faced a shortage of workers for a number of years which was further exacerbated by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, as the UK's Seasonal Workers Scheme was heavily reliant on Ukrainian nationals.

As such, we have been working collaboratively with our suppliers, retailers and industry bodies to implement tangible actions to help safeguard and ensure access to workers' rights within the UK Seasonal Workers Scheme and wider UK horticulture. In 2023, the Seasonal Workers Scheme Taskforce has, amongst other initiatives, delivered on the following actions to improve the working conditions and practices in the UK horticulture sector.

- Improved the information about working conditions and rights to workers both pre and post departing towards the UK via expansion of the just good work app.
- Developed the Responsible Recruitment Progress Assessment (RRPA), by which recruitment agencies are assessed against their recruitment practices.
- Delivered seven regional and three online grower good practice roadshows were delivered at the start of the 2023 season, with a supporting toolkit. The roadshows reached over 380 delegates from 150 different growers.
- Developed the Serious Incident Escalation Protocol which will now be taken forward at a wider whole food supply chain level by the British Retail Consortium and partner organisations.

Furthermore, we work more directly with our own suppliers to ensure they are implementing and able to adhere to the high standards we expect with regards to human rights within our supply chain.