

11th January '08

Mr S Trent
Environmental Justice Foundation
5 St Peter's Street
London
N1 8JD

Dear Steve,

Thank you very much for your letter to Stuart Rose, dated 11 December. As Head of Technology for General Merchandise, Stuart has asked me to respond on his behalf.

We have read 'The Children behind Our Cotton' report and take the reported concerns raised very seriously.

On the matter of Uzbekistan particularly, we have been working with our textile suppliers over the past few months to firstly understand where Uzbekistan cotton may be used in M&S garments. Having done this review we have asked our suppliers not to use any cotton sourced from Uzbekistan. This will be our position until such time that there is clear evidence of a change in the Uzbek cotton industry.

Furthermore, as part of Plan A, our five year environmental and social responsibility initiative, we have recently formalised our sustainable cotton strategy.

We have made a long term commitment to only use cotton from farmers that respect the environment and the health and wellbeing of farming communities. We will do this by setting world leading Global Cotton Sourcing Principles that address key social and environmental impacts associated with cotton production.

It will take some time for all of our cotton to meet our Global Cotton Sourcing Principles as our cotton business represents 55% of our total clothing range, however we have already paved the way through our commitment to Fairtrade and Organic cotton which now represents 10% of our total cotton offer, and through the position we have adopted with Uzbekistan, it demonstrates that our vision is achievable.

We would very much welcome the opportunity to meet with you to take you through our detailed plans to implement the strategies outlined above and discuss any further questions that you have regarding our sourcing of cotton.

Please do get in contact with Lauren Orme, Sustainable Raw Materials Manager, Lauren.orme@marks-and-spencer.com, who will organise a time to host a meeting at our Waterside office.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krishan Hundal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Krishan Hundal
Head of General Merchandise Technology

c.c Stuart Rose