



INVESTOR FORUM JOINS CALLS FOR A 'FIT TO TRADE' LICENSING SCHEME FOR THE UK GARMENT INDUSTRY

(London, 20 July 2020)

The Investor Forum has joined a broad coalition of parliamentarians, businesses, investors and civil society organisations to request that urgent action is taken by the Government to implement a licensing scheme that ensures all garment factories are meeting their legal obligations to their employees.

The Forum support the proposals of the British Retail Consortium and others on the need to implement statutory licensing of garment factory owners and managers to ensure they are 'Fit to Trade'.

As part of a three-year "Stewardship 360 - Working Practices" project, the Forum has worked with its Members to enhance investor focus on issues within the labour markets of the apparel, food retail and construction sectors, including the risks of modern slavery.

Andy Griffiths, Executive Director of the Investor Forum said:

"Investors need to have confidence that the companies that they invest in act with due regard to the interests of all their stakeholders, including those throughout their supply chains, and compete on a level playing field. A robust licensing regime, and effective enforcement, would ensure that long-held concerns are addressed across the industry."

The BRC letter can be found [here](#).

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- The Investor Forum is an independent, not for profit organisation founded in October 2014. As at 30th June 2020, 51 organisations were Members, including asset managers, insurance companies, pension funds, and endowments
- Members have ~£17.1trn in Global assets under management, and have £675bn invested in UK equities, which represents ~30% of the FTSE All-Share market cap
- The purpose of the Investor Forum is to position stewardship at the heart of investment decision making by facilitating dialogue, creating long-term solutions and enhancing value.
- For more information, go to www.investorforum.org.uk