

Our commitment to our suppliers - 1 March 2021

The John Lewis Partnership is governed by its own written Constitution. The Constitution contains Principles and Rules for how we run our business alongside our Partners (employees). The Constitution also sets out the role the Partnership has in society, defining our responsibilities to customers, suppliers and the environment.

The Constitution states the Partnership's relationships with its suppliers must be based, as like with its customers, on honesty, fairness, courtesy and promptness. It looks for a similar attitude throughout its supply chains. In particular, the Partnership expects its suppliers to obey the law and to respect the wellbeing of their employees, their local communities and the environment.

The Partnership works with a diverse range of suppliers from 64 countries and has around 700 suppliers who have worked alongside us for over 30 years. It is the strength of these relationships that allow us to source high quality, responsibly produced products and services for our customers.

We support our suppliers in a number of ways of which further details can be found in our [2019/20 Ethics & Sustainability Progress Report](#) and [Modern Slavery Statement](#). Some examples include:

- **Support for smaller suppliers** - Waitrose pays its small food producers and suppliers with spend less than £100k on seven day terms.
- **Farming partnerships** - Waitrose was the first retailer to set up livestock producer groups, of which we now have over 30, sourcing directly from farms, giving producers an assured market, clear direction and a stable base.
- **Encouraging worker voice in the supply chain** - John Lewis continued the roll out of a free supplier engagement programme called [Better Jobs](#), bringing the total number of UK supplier completions of the Better Jobs framework since launch to 52, with over 2,600 employees completing the survey, Now trialling with suppliers in China, it replaces traditional ethical audits and aims to create more rewarding and enriching jobs.

Duty to Report statement

In adherence to Duty to Report requirements and the UK Prompt Payment Code of which the John Lewis Partnership is a member, we have submitted supplier payments data from the last six months of our financial year (August 2020 - January 2021), as three separate entities - John Lewis Plc, Waitrose Ltd and John Lewis Properties Plc. The full report and previous submissions can be found [here](#) but findings are:

- Waitrose pays its smallest suppliers on 7 day terms
- Average time taken to pay invoices is 38 days for Waitrose and 41 days for John Lewis. For John Lewis Properties it's 62 days.
- Over a third (37%) of all John Lewis suppliers and almost a third (32%) of all Waitrose suppliers are paid within 30 days. For John Lewis Properties it is 83%.
- Over half (53%) of John Lewis suppliers and almost two thirds (63%) of Waitrose suppliers are paid in 31 to 60 days. For John Lewis Properties it is 2%.
- 10% of John Lewis and 5% of Waitrose invoices are paid later than 61 days or more. For John Lewis Properties it is 15%.
- And 8% of John Lewis and 3% of Waitrose are not paid within the agreed payment terms. For John Lewis Properties it is 20%.