

## MARKS AND SPENCER POSITION STATEMENT ON ANIMAL SOURCED FOODS

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### OUR COMMITMENT

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M&S is long recognised as being the UK leader in farm animal welfare. We were first awarded Tier 1 status in the Business Benchmark in Farm Animal Welfare in 2013, and have retained our Tier 1 status ever since – the only UK retailer to do so.

Since 2002 we are proud to have been awarded 11 separate animal welfare awards from Compassion in World Farming plus we have also been awarded a number of recognitions from RSPCA including the Sustained Excellence Award. In recent times, we have invested heavily in RSPCA Assurance and now sell the largest range of RSPCA Assured products in the world.

We recognise that encouraging people to eat a more plant-based diet can contribute to tackling climate change because of the impact of meat and dairy production on the climate.

We are focused on reducing emissions from the meat and dairy we offer and we are working with our suppliers to develop decarbonisation roadmaps for our key animal species.

At the same time, at M&S we have a team of experts who are passionate about enhancing the uptake of plants and vegetables in our customers baskets. Through tech and innovation, we're creating alternative proteins that are responsibly sourced, have excellent sustainability credentials, are nutritionally beneficial, and – of course – taste absolutely delicious. We are also looking to conduct trials on “nudging” customer behaviour to encourage them to add plants and vegetables to their baskets.

To meet growing consumer demand for alternative meat and dairy foods, in 2019 we launched Plant Kitchen with 60 products. Since then, we've continued to expand Plant Kitchen and in 2022 launched our new Veggie range, with 16 new lines.

### METRICS AND TARGETS

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As part of Plan A, our sustainability initiative to reach net zero emissions by 2040, our aim is to increase sales of plant-based products to £75m by 2024/25 (we achieved £65m in 2022/23) and shift dietary patterns closer to the Eatwell Guide (the UK dietary guideline), to bring about both health and environmental benefits.

To further our understanding of how our customers diets are shifting and the impact our efforts are having, we monitor the proportion of our protein sales that come from plant-based, meat-free and animal-based sources.

### GOVERNANCE

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This Position Statement is applicable across all M&S Food geographies and business divisions.

On a day-to-day basis, responsibility for implementing this guidance sits jointly with the Heads of Sustainability, Nutrition and Agriculture, within the M&S Food Technology function.

Our CEO is ultimately accountable for the whole sustainability programme (Plan A) across M&S. Accountability for its delivery is devolved to each of the Managing Directors. Oversight is provided by the Board, and our Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Committee.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

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Position Statement Owner	Andrew Clappen
Compliance Lead	Lucinda Langton
Published / Effective from	October 2023
Review Frequency	Annually
Next Review Date	October 2024