

Dear Mr Ruskell,

Re: Supermarket support for the supply chain during Covid-19 outbreak

I write in response to your letter to Mr Potts dated 20th March, apologies for the delayed reply.

We understand the important role we are playing in helping to feed the nation as a retailer and food manufacture. We also appreciate the role that our suppliers also play in helping us to achieve this.

To help our suppliers, including local food makers and farmers during this time, we have put in place a faster payment scheme to support them as they deal with the impact of Covid-19.

This means we will start to process payments immediately with the aim of releasing payments to the banks within 48 hours. This new measure will benefit our 3,000 small suppliers which includes around 1,750 farmers to help with their cash flow during this difficult time.

We have set up a dedicated helpdesk for our suppliers to discuss this new measure which is 0800 015 2600.

In response to your point regarding foodbanks, we recently announced that we are donating £10m of products over the next three months, to help restock that nation's vital foodbanks. Each week, stores will be provided with additional stock to donate to food banks in their local area. We are also encouraging our customers to make their own donations by raising the purchase limits on key items to four (from three) and some have been removed altogether.

I trust that this reassures you that we are working to help our farmers and local suppliers and providing vital products to those most in need.

Yours sincerely,
Sarah

Sarah Atta-Nugent
Corporate Services Manager - Corporate Affairs