

Mr. Tom Tugendhat, MP  
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee  
Mrs. Nusrat Ghani, MP  
Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy Committee  
Mr. Darren Jones, MP  
Chair, Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy Committee

Dear Honourable Members,

Thank you for your letter dated 1 March 2021, regarding your honourable Committees' inquiries into the Xinjiang detention camps and potential implication for our business ethical practices. At River Island, we are deeply committed to sourcing our products ethically and responsibly and we uphold and advocate for the respect of fundamental Human Rights and international labour standards, across our business and supply chain.

We are aware of this issue in the China supply chain and the movement of Uyghur people, including reports of prison and forced labour. These are extremely serious allegations and we find these reports deeply troubling.

We can confirm that we do not source any garments from Xinjiang. We also recognise that a significant amount of the world's cotton supply is grown and spun there. Therefore, we are taking steps to better understand how our global supply chain may be indirectly impacted, including working with our suppliers and require them to no longer knowingly source products or raw materials coming from Xinjiang.

We are committed to collaborating with other brands, stakeholders, supplier partners and expert organisations to responsibly address situations of potential forced labour, and continue to engage through the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) with other members to inform ourselves on how to best address these challenges.

At River Island, we have strict policies against the use of forced labour of any kind in our supply chain. Any instance of involuntary labour or suppression of an individual's human rights is unacceptable to us. We currently partner with independent organisation, The Reassurance Network, to assess our suppliers' adherence to our standards, and where non-compliances are found, we work with our supplier to implement the necessary remedial actions.

You can find more information on our due diligence to prevent instances of Modern Slavery in our supply chain through our Modern Slavery Statement, available on our website at:

<https://www.riverisland.com/inside-river-island/about-us/modern-slavery-statement>

Sincerely,



Jose Arguedas  
Head of Corporate Social Responsibility & Sustainability  
River Island



## Foreign Affairs Committee

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**From the Chair**  
Tom Tugendhat MP

Jose Arguedas  
Head of Corporate Social Responsibility  
River Island  
Letter by email: [Jose.Arguedas@river-island.com](mailto:Jose.Arguedas@river-island.com)

01 March 2021

Dear Mr Arguedas,

We are writing to you following recent reports that parts of UK companies' supply chains include materials and/or labour sourced from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China. As part of the Foreign Affairs and Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committees' inquiries into the Xinjiang detention camps, we are reaching out to a number of businesses to establish a clearer understanding of commercial activity in the region, and what private companies perceive their ethical responsibilities to be in this area.

We would be grateful if you could address the following questions:

1. What is the nature and extent of your company's operations in Xinjiang?
2. What specific raw materials arriving in UK markets are sourced from Xinjiang?
3. Are any of your products assembled in factories deemed to be at risk of using forced labour?
4. Which Chinese companies are involved in your supply chains?
5. How do you ensure that companies at every stage of your supply chain meet their contractual obligations regarding anti-slavery and anti-human trafficking laws?
6. What is River Island's approach to assessing and scrutinising its supply chains to ensure that materials are ethically sourced?
7. Where materials from unethical sources are identified, how does your company respond and what steps are taken to mitigate the risk of future occurrences?
8. What is your information-gathering process for your Modern Slavery statements, and how do you verify this information? What is your process for acting on the findings of your Modern Slavery statements?

It would be helpful to have a response to this letter by 15 March 2021. We intend to place your response in the public domain.

Best wishes,

**TOM TUGENDHAT MP**  
**CHAIR, FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**



**NUSRAT GHANI MP  
BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY COMMITTEE**



**DARREN JONES MP  
CHAIR, BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY COMMITTEE**