

8th January 2021

This week's announcement by the UK Prime Minister was tough to hear. Although another national lock-down was perhaps inevitable, it is nonetheless a difficult prospect for most people to face. The pandemic remains extremely challenging for our business as well as for the wider food and drink industry but I believe in the resilience of our Princes colleagues who continue to meet this challenge and to feed millions of families.

Much like the first lock-down in March 2020, the Prime Minister has urged us to stay at home unless we are:

- A key worker and cannot reasonably work from home;
- Seeking medical support;
- Visiting a supermarket; and/or
- Exercising.

With now tried, tested and safe ways of working in place, I wanted to express that the health and wellbeing of our colleagues remains our top priority. I would also like to reassure you that we continue to rigorously and regularly assess our sites and activities to ensure we are able to mitigate any potential risks to our colleagues, our supply chain and continuity of supply.

As the Prime Minister said, these will be the 'hardest weeks' but I am confident that we can navigate them together with our usual common sense approach. The lockdown is of course unpopular but we recognise it is important in reducing community infection rates. We are playing our part and regularly reinforce the message to colleagues to self-isolate and test for COVID-19 when symptoms appear. We also have very strict processes in place to ensure colleagues at sites are socially distanced and wearing the appropriate PPE at all times. Finally, our office based colleagues will continue to homework for the foreseeable future as per the latest Government guidance.

On a separate note we are aware of reports in the media of panic buying. We fully support the reassurance from leading retailers that the food and drink industry is able to meet demand and would remind people to be considerate of the needs of their wider community when shopping.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all frontline workers, supermarket staff and the millions of key workers in food supply chains around the world, who are responding magnificently to this crisis. Of course, I want to extend a special thank you to our Princes #HiddenHeroes, who have been rising to the challenge every day and are continuing to do so.

Cameron Mackintosh
Managing Director