Mary Creagh MP  
Chair, Environmental Audit Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Ms Creagh

Supplementary Evidence from Burberry

Thank you for your letter dated 11 December, I welcomed the opportunity to answer the Committee’s questions about Burberry’s social and environmental programmes. These initiatives are important to us and they are something I feel passionately about personally.

I am writing with supplementary information to the evidence I provided on behalf of Burberry to the Environmental Audit Committee on Tuesday 27th November 2018.

With regard to Rt Hon Caroline Lucas MP’s question about Burberry’s usage of cotton and specifically the percentage that is organic:

We have committed to procure 100% of our cotton through the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) by 2022. The BCI brings together farmers, mills, manufacturers, retailers and others to establish a global community committed to developing cotton in a truly sustainable manner. By helping farmers grow cotton in a way which reduces stress on the environment whilst providing for the livelihoods and welfare of farming communities, the initiative is designed to create real long-lasting change.

- We currently source 20% of our cotton through the BCI and are on track to meet our second-year target of 50%.

We are a proud partner of ‘Cotton 2040’, a cross-industry initiative, convened by Forum for the Future, that aims to maximise and accelerate sustainability initiatives in the global cotton industry and drive wider usage of sustainable cotton.

We currently do not procure any organic cotton as the quality is not currently readily available in the quantities that Burberry needs. We are in discussions with the supplier of cotton yarn to our mill in Yorkshire where we weave the gabardine for our iconic trench coats to transition to organic cotton.

Burberry will support our supplier through the three-year transition period it takes a farm to move from conventional cotton production to full organic certification and we will source organic cotton from them, provided the quality of the yarn continues to meet our high quality requirements.

I hope this information is helpful. If you or your colleagues on the Committee have any further questions, I would be happy to answer them. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide evidence on this particularly important inquiry.

Yours sincerely


Chief People, Strategy and Corporate Affairs Officer at Burberry