

# Apparel & Footwear Benchmark COMPANY SCORECARD 2023

# Boohoo group Plc (Boohoo)

TICKER LON:BOO **MARKET CAPITALISATION** 

US\$1.52 billion

**HEADQUARTERS** 

United Kingdom

**DISCLOSURES** 

**UK Modern Slavery Act: Yes** 

California Transparency in Supply Chains Act: Yes

Australia Modern Slavery
Act: Applicability not

determined

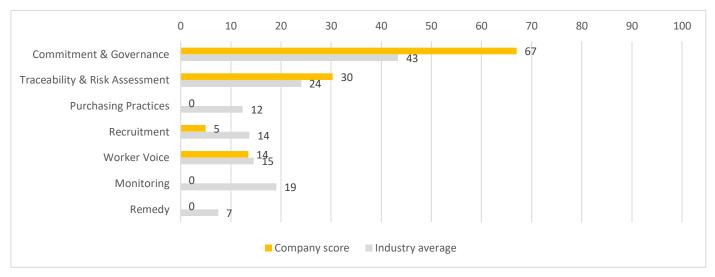
**OVERALL RANKING** 

28 out of 65

**OVERALL SCORE** 

21 out of 100

### **THEME-LEVEL SCORES**



### **KEY DATA POINTS**

#### FIRST-TIER SUPPLIER LIST

Yes (Names only, not addresses)

#### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

Yes

## **DATA ON PURCHASING PRACTICES**

No

#### **ENGAGED WITH KNOWTHECHAIN<sup>2</sup>**

Informal

#### **NO-FEE POLICY**

Yes

#### REMEDY FOR SUPPLY CHAIN WORKERS

No

#### HIGH-RISK RAW MATERIALS<sup>1</sup>

Cotton, leather, viscose, wool



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### **SUMMARY**

Boohoo Group plc (Boohoo), a British online fast-fashion retailer, ranks joint 28<sup>th</sup> out of 65 companies. The company's score is based on its stronger performance on the themes of Commitment & Governance and Traceability & Risk Assessment. In particular, the company discloses strong information on the internal teams responsible for the implementation of its supply chain standards addressing forced labour, as well as board oversight. However, the company scores lower than average across all other themes. Notably, the company is the lowest-scoring online retailer assessed in the benchmark. The company is encouraged to improve its performance and disclosure on the themes of Purchasing Practices, Recruitment, and Remedy.

#### LEADING PRACTICES

None.

#### OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

**Purchasing Practices**: The company discloses a set of principles on responsible purchasing practices which include references to "fair" prices and "reasonable" lead times but does not define these terms or disclose concrete data on its purchasing practices. To address forced labour risks in its supply chains, the company is encouraged to adopt purchasing practices that decrease the risk of forced labour, such as improving planning and forecasting and prompt payment, and disclose quantitative data evidencing the implementation of responsible purchasing practices. The company may further consider separating labour costs from price negotiations such that all direct and indirect labour costs are isolated and incorporated as a distinct costing block in pricing. The company should consider integrating <u>responsible buying practices in its contracts</u> with suppliers, to ensure that the responsibility for respecting human rights is shared.

**Recruitment**: While the company discloses a policy that prohibits the charging of recruitment fees to workers, the company is encouraged to explicitly require that such fees be paid by the employer ("Employer Pays Principle") and disclose how it ensures the implementation of this through the prevention of fees in its supply chains, such as through: mapping of migration corridors and labour agencies used by suppliers, specialised monitoring for fees, and evidence of supplier payment of fees to labour agencies directly. It may also consider steps to ensure that such fees are reimbursed to the workers and/or to provide evidence of payment of recruitment-related fees by suppliers.

**Remedy**: The company may consider establishing a process to ensure that remedy is provided to workers in its supply chains in cases of forced labour and disclosing details on this process, such as responsible parties, approval procedures, timeframes, and, crucially, engagement with affected stakeholders. To demonstrate to its stakeholders that it has an effective remedy process in place, the company is encouraged to disclose examples of remedy provided to its suppliers' workers.

<sup>1</sup> For further details on high-risk raw materials and sourcing countries, see KnowTheChain's 2023 apparel & footwear benchmark findings report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Research conducted through June 2023 or through September 2023, where companies provided additional disclosure or links. For more information, see the full dataset <u>here</u>. For information on a company's positive and negative human rights impact, see the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre <u>website</u>.