

# **SPEEDO INTERNATIONAL LIMITED**

**Registered number: 00227323**

## **Section 172 Statement**

The Companies (Miscellaneous Reporting) Regulations 2018 requires Speedo International Limited to publish a statement explaining how the directors have given due regard for the matters set out in section 172(1)(a) to (f) of the Companies Act 2006 while performing their duty to promote the success of the company for the benefit of its members as a whole (“section 172 statement”). Below is the section 172 statement for Speedo International Limited captured by these regulations.

### **Extract from the Strategic Report for the year ended 31 December 2022**

The following disclosure describes how the directors have approached and met their responsibilities under section 172 of the Companies Act 2006, and in particular how the directors have satisfied themselves that they have acted in a way which is most likely to promote the success of the company for the benefit of its members as a whole, and in doing so having regard for stakeholders interests, and forms the directors’ statement required under section 414CZA of the Companies Act 2006.

As a business we set high expectations for ourselves, our people, our business partners and our suppliers. We have presented below a summary of the key stakeholder groups, as well as the key decisions made during the year, with reference to how our key stakeholders were impacted and how the directors engaged with those stakeholders to promote the success of the company.

#### *- Pentland Group Limited (formerly known as Pentland Group (Trading) Limited)*

Pentland Group Limited is the company’s immediate parent undertaking and provides intercompany funding. Continued access to capital is vital to the long-term success of the company.

Regular profit and cash flow forecasts are provided to Pentland Group Limited and the Group Treasury function, not only to advise on when funding is needed, but also to highlight sales and profit growth to ensure we are creating value for the ultimate shareholders. These are challenged and scrutinised as well as regular forecast update and outlook processes.

#### *- Suppliers*

Our suppliers are fundamental to the quality of our products. Most of our stock is sourced from outside the UK so it is important to ensure that we are compliant with trading standards and regulations, such as the Modern Slavery Act, to meet the highest standards of social responsibility. Our Risk Committee allows us to highlight any challenges associated with various regions due to political or economic instability that may impact our ability to act in accordance with the standards of conduct we set ourselves, or our ability to meet customer demands, and support our suppliers if necessary.

Much of the engagement with our suppliers is through our sourcing partners, though we regularly assess the results of our Payment Practices Reporting for all suppliers to ensure that we are meeting their liquidity demands.

Modern slavery can occur in any global supply chain and is particularly prevalent in the apparel and footwear industry, so understanding where the risk is higher helps us evolve our approach. In April 2023 Pentland Brands published its seventh Modern Slavery report (covering 2022 activities), reviewing the progress it has made and setting its direction to continue working towards 100% transparency across its supply chain.

The ‘Our Standards’ policy provides our partners with guidance on working ethically and transparently and is available in the languages of all our major sourcing markets. We are continuing to look at how we can work collaboratively with our suppliers to manage risks. You can read both the Modern Slavery report and Our Standards policy on the Pentland Brands website -- [pentlandbrands.com/reports-and-resources/](https://pentlandbrands.com/reports-and-resources/).

- *Customers*

Sustaining long lasting relationships with our customers is vital to the success of the company and regular meetings take place to ensure this continues. We also regularly review terms in place and ensure that both the company and the customer can meet the demands placed on them.

Any significant decisions on new product ranges or investment/divestment in distribution channels must take customer needs into consideration, and engage with those customers as necessary.

- *Employees*

Whilst all employee contracts are held by Pentland Brands Limited, a sister company within the group, the company recognises that a number of those employees represent the company in the conduct of its principal activity. Accordingly, we believe they are crucial to operating our business successfully and engage to ensure that we are fostering an environment in which they are happy to work.

We recognise the significant challenges that many people are currently facing when it comes to cost-of-living crisis and we care about the impact this is having on individuals' ability to pay bills and meet basic requirements.

In response, Pentland Brands applied a 5% in-year salary increase to help its lower earners (applied from July 2022). They then agreed a further 7% annual salary increase for all employees from 2023, bringing forward the application of this from April 2023, to January 2023. Pentland Brands also introduced a package of support for employees including money coaching and financial education sessions.

- *Community*

Respect for the people and the environment has long been at the heart of our business and we strive to do the right thing, not the easy thing, and make all our decisions in good conscience.

In addition to publishing our annual Positive Business report, in 2022, Pentland Brands shared how it worked towards achieving its ambitious 100-1-0 sustainability goals by its centenary year in 2032. Launched in November 2021, we've made significant progress in benefitting people and planet. You can find out more on the Pentland Brands website -- [pentlandbrands.com/pentland-brands-drives-forward-sustainability-initiatives/](https://pentlandbrands.com/pentland-brands-drives-forward-sustainability-initiatives/).

Its furtherance of its own sustainability targets, during 2022, Speedo International increased the volume of products that use recycled materials as its main material to 61%. By the end of 2024, Speedo is aiming for every item to have recycled materials as the main material.

Also in the year, Speedo's Swim United programme has funded 4,500 swim lessons for kids in the UK and South Africa through the Black Swimming Association, Panathlon and National Sea Rescue Institute, among others. It's also petitioning the UK government for greater equity in the water and to change the downward trend of nearly 1 in 3 children in the UK leaving primary school unable to swim.

Speedo also inspired outdoor swimming as Speedo's Outsiders Club celebrated the joy and health benefits gained from swimming outside by sharing inspirational stories of real outdoor swimming communities in the UK.

You can read more about some of the actions Pentland Brands and our brands are taking across all areas at [pentlandbrands.com/news/](https://pentlandbrands.com/news/).

## **Our Principal Decisions**

- *Supply Chain Disruption*

With lockdowns in China continuing into early 2022, some of our factory partners continued to operate at a reduced capacity. Despite our best efforts to keep things running smoothly, restrictions impacted the movement of orders to our freight forwarders. This meant we were unable to ship some orders until

lockdown restrictions eased towards mid-2022. To minimise impact, we communicated the challenges with our suppliers and worked with them on finding solutions.

- *Russian invasion of Ukraine*

Following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia in February 2022, we paused trading in Russia on 28 February and subsequently suspended actively trading in the market until further notice.

- *British Swimming Investment*

Speedo signed a multi-year partnership with British Swimming to provide swimwear and specialist equipment to all aquatic disciplines across the senior and junior squads.

- *Speedo Germany*

In March 2022, Speedo announced its return to a direct-to-retailer business model in Germany. The decision followed on from Speedo's successful nine-year distribution partnership with Oberalp Group and marks the next chapter in the Speedo story in Germany.

As one of Europe's largest swimwear markets -- valued at €486m -- Germany will become a Speedo priority market; with plans to increase its investment in marketing, retailer customer service and key product categories.