Tea Purchasing Statement

Booths History & Heritage began in June 1847 when tea dealer Edwin Henry Booth at just 19 years of age secured a loan of £80 to open his first shop, The China House in Blackpool. “Mr Edwin’s” flair for business and advertising allowed him to repay the debt just three months later, whilst also making a profit of £50. He continued to capitalise on this early success by opening a second, larger shop in 1855 in the market town of Chorley. By 1863, Edwin had developed a keen application and admiration for the quality of his goods and thanks to the changes in UK licensing laws, Booths added wine and liquor to their range. Three more locations were added to the estate in the following years, Preston in 1867, Lytham in 1878 and Blackburn in 1884.

Today Booths boasts 27 stores packed full of fantastic foods and beverages from around the corner and around the world including loose tea which is blended and packed in-house along with coffee which is also roasted and ground at the central facility in Ribbleton, Preston. The Booths tea packing process begins with our beverage specialist working with agents and brokers who specialise in sourcing tea from across the world to agreed parameters and in line with Booths exacting specifications.

Booths continue to be a proud member of the Ethical Tea Partnership and recognise the importance of driving positive change for tea workers across the globe. Booths applauds the work of the Ethical Tea Partnership (ETP) which primarily listens to workers, farmers and communities and then collaboratively delivers locally-led projects that seek to involve communities and ensure their voices are heard which in turn supports the private sector to pioneer responsible business models and engage stakeholders to support policies that positively impact people working within the tea sector.

Booths work with 3rd party agents and brokers to source tea from tea gardens that have recognised accreditations from bodies such as Fairtrade, Rainforest, Trustea and ISO. These gardens require long-term support in order to benefit everyone who works in tea and tea producing regions - Fairtrade for example focus on better prices, safe working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers.

Booths is committed to meeting ETP’s membership criteria, including disclosing purchase information and our suppliers, to ensure that we demonstrate traceability of our tea.

Date: 10th August 2023

Signed: ........................................

Nigel Murray, MD