

20 January 2020

DEBENHAMS GROUP

Dr Beatrice Lafon appointed to parent company board

Debenhams Group announces today that Dr Beatrice Lafon has been appointed as a non-executive director of Celine Jersey Topco Limited, the parent company of the Debenhams Group of operating companies.

Beatrice is a highly experienced CEO and non-executive director, having worked in a wide variety of retail and turnaround situations. She has held a number of CEO roles, most recently interim CEO at Pimkie, the European fashion retailer. She spent five years at Claire's Stores Inc, the leading global accessories and jewellery retailer, taking the role of CEO from 2014 to 2016. She is currently a NED at Solent Group (a multi-category design and distribution business) and at Orsay (a European womenswear retailer trading across 30 countries). She also has a longstanding consultancy role with the Business Intelligence Network.

Mark Gifford, Chairman of Celine Jersey Topco Limited, said:

"I am so pleased that Beatrice has agreed to join our board. Her variety of experience and track record of turnaround expertise brings another dimension to the Group. We continue to strengthen the board to support Stefaan and the operational team with wide-ranging skills and knowledge and strategic perspective. Having made good progress in our restructuring plans and with our supportive investor group and access to substantial funding, Debenhams is well set to implement a turnaround."

- Ends -

Enquiries

Tim Danaher/Craig Breheny, Brunswick Group 020 7404 5959
debenhams@brunswickgroup.com

Notes to editors

Debenhams is a leading international, department store destination with a proud British heritage which trades out of around 240 stores and is available online in more than 90 countries at www.debenhams.com. It is one of the top five fashion retailers in the UK and has a leading market position in premium beauty both in-store and online. Debenhams gives its customers around the world a unique, differentiated and exclusive mix of own brands, international brands and concessions.

Beatrice Lafon brings over 35 years of Pan European and US retail experience, with extensive experience in Buying & Merchandising, Strategy and Proposition Development. She has worked for blue chip retailers such as Marks & Spencer, J Sainsbury's (where she launched the first DIY transactional website in the world in 2000), BSKyB (part of News Corp) and the Kingfisher Group, sizeable private businesses such as Pimkie, River Island, Tchibo and Animal and PE-backed businesses like Claire's, TJHughes and Kondor. She led the sale of TJ Hughes in the UK, the repositioning and return to profitability of The Etam Group in The Netherlands, the recovery of Claire's Stores Inc (USA), the recovery of Pimkie (France) and the repositioning and sale of Kondor (UK) to DCC Plc.