

Date: 06 November 2020

Page: 41



Bosses avoid the firing line in Boohoo staff scandal

By David Churchill

FAST-fashion giant Boohoo has failed to sack any senior staff over the working conditions scandal at one of its suppliers, it emerged yesterday.

MPs said it showed the retailer had 'no accountability'.

In September, a damning report found allegations of poor working practices in the company's supply chain were 'substantially true'. It concluded Boohoo knew of 'endemic' problems within its Leicester suppliers, including poor conditions and minimum wage breaches.

Factories were found to have locked fire doors, filthy toilets, buildings in 'deplorable' condition and 'no wholesome drinking water'. Boohoo accepted the findings and apologised.

Yesterday Darren Jones, chairman of the Commons business select committee, asked if any senior staff were sacked over

Boohoo's 'gross misconduct' and the 'harm suffered by so many low-paid workers'.

Boohoo's Andrew Reaney said: 'Nobody got sacked internally.'

Mr Jones later commented: 'My understanding of accountability is that there are consequences for one's actions.'

Andrew Bridgen, Tory MP for North West Leicestershire, who first raised the alarm, said: 'This undermines any confidence the public might have that there is going to be systemic change within the business.

'It shows the rot goes right to the top. If it was just a few rogue managers, you'd expect them to get rid of them.'

'The rot goes to the top'

