

## WHSmith announces top 12 global ranking in retail sector in Dow Jones Sustainability Index

WHSmith is delighted to share that, for the second year running, the Company has been ranked in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) as one of the top 12 global sustainability leaders in the retail sector.

The DJSI recognises leading companies in each industry for responsible Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) performance. Based on S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA), the DJSI supports investors seeking to track equity markets while applying a sustainability best-in-class selection process. Of the 357 retail companies listed in the Index, WHSmith are ranked in the top 12 companies for their ESG performance this year.

As a leading global travel retailer with a presence in over 30 countries across the world, and a diverse workforce of over 11,000 employees, sustainability is at the heart of WHSmith. The Company prides itself on supporting the thousands of local communities it serves as well as facing into the wider global challenges that impact the world, such as climate change.

WHSmith's sustainability plan shapes the foundations of their journey to a better business, ensuring close alignment between their business goals and the contribution they can make to a better society and cleaner environment. Working collaboratively with their suppliers and business partners, WHSmith have focused on delivering against their ESG targets this year in three core areas: protecting the planet, looking after their people and supporting the communities they serve.

The Company's ranking in the DJSI reflects the excellent progress made to date. This year, the business has met targets to reach carbon neutrality for all their UK operations, reaching a reduction of 65% in carbon emissions across the business since 2007, with 100% of the electricity purchased in the UK for their stores, offices and distribution centres coming from renewable electricity. They have also continued efforts to develop more environmentally responsible sourcing practices, removing plastic glitter from all own-brand ranges, and removing hard-to-recycle plastics, wherever possible.

In addition, the business has accelerated their commitment to championing children's literacy with over 30,000 books donated in the year to disadvantaged children across the UK with their charity partner the National Literacy Trust, and continued commitments to promote a culture of inclusion and diversity across the WHSmith business through their policies, procedures and working practices to ensure every one of their colleagues receives equal treatment throughout their employee journey.

Carl Cowling, Group Chief Executive comments, *"I am delighted that we have been recognised in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index as one of the global sustainability leaders in the retail sector. The progress that we have made to date is testament to the dedication and commitment of all our colleagues and business partners, for which I am extremely grateful. We are more committed than ever to playing our part to protect the future of our planet, support our communities, and ensure our people remain at the heart of our business."*

WHSmith's 2021 Annual Sustainability report will be published on Monday 6 December.

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**Notes to Editors:****About WHSmith**

WHSmith is a leading global retailer in news, books and convenience for the world's travelling customer. With more than 1,700 stores across over 30 countries worldwide, WHSmith offer customers a wide range of books, newspapers & magazines, travel and digital accessories and food and drink.

The Company has a growing international business with over 580 stores primarily across the world's leading airports. In November 2018, WHSmith acquired InMotion, a leading digital accessories retailer in US airports, with over 115 stores. In December 2019, WHSmith acquired Marshall Retail Group, a leading and fast-growing US travel retailer with over 170 stores.

WHSmith's High Street business comprises over 560 stores across the UK and customers can shop online 24/7 at [www.whsmith.co.uk](http://www.whsmith.co.uk).