

The Microfibre Consortium

Leading the textile industry in reducing microfibre release to protect our environment



MEDIA STATEMENT

24.03.22, for immediate release

The Microfibre Consortium responds to Changing Markets report

The Microfibre Consortium has issued the following statement in response to the publication of a report by the Changing Markets Foundation entitled 'Licence to Greenwash'.

Sophie Mather, executive director of The Microfibre Consortium, comments: "The Microfibre Consortium is disappointed that this report fails to recognise the significant progress that we have made in recent years in our specific area of work. Not only does it misrepresent what the consortium actually does, but its references to the organisation are out of date and simply inaccurate.

"To effect systemic change, we have to galvanise cooperation throughout the industry and that can only be achieved by working directly with and through the sector. However, TMC is not in thrall to the industry. Indeed, in September last year we announced a change to our membership model, requiring all organisations to sign the Microfibre 2030 Commitment and actively contribute to the overarching Microfibre Roadmap. This aligns the sector's work to reduce fibre fragmentation, with clear goals, workstreams and timelines and it is all in the public domain, openly demonstrating sustained action to directly address the issues that underpin the consortium's reason for being. Signatories strongly supported this change, which commits them to annual and transparent reporting, and this is helping to accelerate our work.

"None of this shies away from the huge fibre fragmentation challenges that face the apparel sector and TMC has always been entirely open about that. Everyone in our growing core team has a textile and scientific background, including Dr Kelly Sheridan, our head of research. Together, we cooperate closely with our external advisory board, along with an independent technical committee, our signatories, 24 research signatories, and other partners, all of whom actively support the work to develop and roll out effective and meaningful science-based action to reduce fibre fragmentation from natural and synthetic textiles. In that context, the release of the test method in 2021 was an important moment and made a major contribution in support of the development of the ISO and CEN test methods.

“Understanding and solving the issue of fibre fragmentation is unattainable without industry collaboration and cooperation. Any policy or regulatory guidance would be unequipped and lack scientific credibility should the cross-industry achievements led by TMC be ignored. Our Microfibre Roadmap lays out a clear and ambitious timeline of milestones, and it is unfortunate that this report seeks to overlook any progress in this complex field to date.”

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NOTE TO EDITORS

About The Microfibre Consortium

The Microfibre Consortium (TMC) is a research-led sustainable textiles NGO, working to convene the global textiles sector through [The Microfibre 2030 Commitment and Roadmap](#). It is the first and only organisation whole-heartedly focused on this topic and works on behalf of its signatories (currently 76 scaling to 250 by 2030) which comprises of 63% brands and retailers, 32% researchers and 5% affiliated organisations. TMC’s signatory base represents the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, 13 European and 6 Asian countries, amongst others. Its global remit within 26 geographies ensures that the clothing industry delivering to a wide and diverse consumer base, can be consistent with its implementation of mitigation measures relating to unintentional fibre fragmentation and microfibre pollution (both synthetic and natural) through actions such as:

- developing root cause understanding and solutions
- driving an aligned commitment
- delivering sustained action and measurable impact.

Its work is managed by a dedicated UK based team that is led by executive director Sophie Mather.

The full list of TMC signatories to the Microfibre 2030 Commitment are listed at <https://www.microfibreconsortium.com/signatories>.