



## **For Immediate Release**

**Beverly Dixon, MD, Haygrove Growing, UK**

**July 21, 2024**

### **Addressing Recent Allegations Against Haygrove**

Haygrove acknowledges the recent article published by The Guardian and wishes to address the serious allegations regarding the treatment of Indonesian workers.

#### **Commitment to Fair Employment Practices**

Haygrove is committed to fair employment practices and the well-being of all our workers. We take allegations of misconduct very seriously and have cooperated fully with ongoing investigations by the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA). We are deeply concerned by claims that Indonesian workers were charged illegal fees by recruitment agents, which is strictly against our policy and principles.

#### **Recruitment of Indonesian Workers**

In early 2024, Haygrove, through Agri-HR, recruited 20 Indonesian workers for soil-grown strawberries. This recruitment was supported by the Indonesian Embassy, which assured us of its highly regulated process. Upon their arrival, representatives from the Indonesian Embassy visited our farm and conducted interviews with the workers, receiving positive feedback regarding their accommodation, training, and work environment.

#### **Allegations of Illegal Recruitment Fees**

We were unaware of any illegal recruitment fees until concerns were raised by a third party and subsequently reported to the GLAA by Agri-HR. Haygrove has a zero-tolerance policy for such practices and is actively supporting the GLAA's investigation. We emphasise that no issues have been raised directly by the Indonesian workers regarding their recruitment, accommodation, or working conditions at Haygrove.

#### **Dismissal of Workers**

On June 24, 2024, five Indonesian workers were dismissed following a thorough and fair disciplinary process due to consistently poor performance. These



dismissals were conducted in accordance with our structured performance management procedures, which include multiple stages of feedback, training, and support. Despite these efforts, the workers' performance did not meet the necessary standards. Agri-HR facilitated their travel arrangements and ensured communication with the Indonesian Embassy.

### **Future of the Seasonal Worker Visa Model**

Haygrove supports discussions on the seasonal worker recruitment model to prevent any exploitation and ensure fair treatment for all workers. We are committed to exploring sustainable solutions while maintaining equality among all employees.

### **Conclusion**

Haygrove remains dedicated to transparency, fair employment, and the well-being of our workers. We appreciate the opportunity to address these serious allegations and will continue to cooperate with all relevant authorities to ensure the highest standards of ethical conduct.

For further information, please contact: Beverly Dixon MD Growing (UK) Haygrove Ltd Redbank, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2JL +44 (0) 1531 633659

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### **Note to Journalists:**

For any enquiries on this matter please contact [Beverly.dixon@haygrove.co.uk](mailto:Beverly.dixon@haygrove.co.uk). We urge responsible reporting to avoid causing additional distress to the affected workers and their families.

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