

PRESS RELEASE

Former Trade Minister, Waitrose MD, Lord Price CVO, announced as keynote speaker at RetailEXPO

12 March, 2020 – Richmond, London – Mark Price CVO, ex-MD Waitrose and Deputy Chairman of John Lewis Partnership, has been announced as the keynote speaker for **RetailEXPO**, Europe’s leading retail solutions show.

Mark’s keynote session, [‘Creating a new vision for a new era of retail’](#), draws on his extensive experience as a retail leader to provide insight into the critical areas retailers must focus on to survive and thrive in a new decade of trading. From capitalising on the technology revolution and driving leading edge digital innovation, to the complexity of consumer expectation and behaviour to the growing focus and importance of sustainability, Mark will also provide insight into preparing for and overcoming challenges facing retail in the UK and Europe.

Mark joined John Lewis as a graduate trainee, rising through the ranks to become Managing Director of Waitrose, a role he held for a decade. In his first six years, Mark almost doubled the footprint of Waitrose’s stores estate and further established the business as an influential brand leader in the highly competitive grocery sector. While serving as MD, Mark also became the Deputy Chairman of the supermarket’s parent company, the John Lewis Partnership.

On leaving John Lewis, Mark joined the House of Lords and was appointed a Minister of State for Trade advocating for business before and after the vote to leave the EU. In 2018, Mark was appointed Chair of the Fairtrade Foundation and he is also the founder of Engaging Works, an online platform designed to help people get the most from their working lives.

Mark Price CVO commented: “The retail industry is undergoing unprecedented change against a backdrop of global uncertainty and weak consumer demand and it can be difficult for retailers to know how to evolve and where to focus to remain relevant. The growth of the experience economy and the impact of sustainability are reconfiguring the High Street and at **RetailEXPO** we will look at what the future might hold for retail and what action retailers should be taking now to ensure long term survival and success.”

Matt Bradley, Event Director at **RetailEXPO**, said: “The rising expectations of channel-agnostic consumers and the proliferation of technology, on and offline, present both a challenge and an opportunity for retailers. We’re thrilled to have a formidable industry figurehead, such as Mark, leading our keynote session and drawing on his experience to give our show audiences insight on how to navigate market turbulence and drive long-term business performance.”

Other industry leaders [speaking onstage at RetailEXPO](#) as part of the show’s conference programme include Martijn Bertisen, Head of Retail, Google UK; Thomas Berry, Global Director of Sustainable Business, Farfetch; Adam Plummer, Global Digital Product Experience Director, The Body Shop and Benson Chan, Principle Design Director, Microsoft Store.

To find out more about what should be driving retail decision-making in 2020, download **RetailEXPO’s** [Retail trends: How retailers can harness digital to captivate the consumer in 2020 and beyond](#).

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About RetailEXPO

RetailEXPO is Europe’s leading event for retail solutions, designed for retail, brand and hospitality professionals looking to enhance great customer experiences, increase operational effectiveness and drive better outcomes for their business through retail technology and digital innovation.

Bringing together leaders of the retail industry, the event features an interactive exhibition floor with hundreds of cutting-edge suppliers, accompanied by a market-leading conference programme, and a host of networking opportunities - all helping to provide the right insight, inspiration and solutions to today’s retail issues.

This annual industry showcase takes place at the end of April at London’s Olympia. The 2020 edition will be its 10th.

www.retailexpo.com

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