

## HOME RETAIL GROUP Policy on Genetically Modified Organisms.

The attitude of the British public towards the practice of genetic modification\* is currently ambivalent: opinion is generally supportive of medical intervention but there is disquiet over the use of the technique in food production and other fields.

HOME RETAIL GROUP plc is not directly involved in medicine or in food production and retail and therefore is not closely involved in the debate around the use of genetically modified organisms (GMO's). Nor does the technology present at this stage a material risk or opportunity to the business.

Despite the public debate in the UK, genetic modification is being considered in a wider range of applications including in the production of certain commodities such as cotton and maize-derived plastics. These materials are widespread and difficult to trace. However, there are potential direct applications of the technology which some of which now have implications for HOME RETAIL GROUP. For example, some major breeders of garden plants are aware of its potential use to develop new varieties.

Our policy on the use of the technology is therefore:

HOME RETAIL GROUP takes seriously the views of customers and other stakeholders, and therefore will not stock products that are the direct result of genetic modification. This Policy will be regularly reviewed to ensure that it reflects the current scientific understanding and public attitude.

\* In this Policy we use the term genetic modification to refer to the practice of modifying the genetic constitution of plants and animals directly. We are excepting the well-established processes of selective plant breeding.