

GCA Newsletter - Edition 4

Meet the CCO – Jonathan Ward, Compliance Director Aldi Stores Limited



Tell us something about yourself and your path to becoming a Code Compliance Officer.

I have been fortunate to work in a number of different roles over the last 15 years at Aldi. I started in Operations as an Area Manager and became a Finance and Administration Director in 2002, helping to open our Scottish office in 2004. I came back to Corporate in 2005 where I have worked in Controlling and Project Management before taking on the role of Code Compliance Officer.

What are the most challenging aspects of your CCO role?

The growth of Aldi over the last 5 years has made it harder to keep in touch with everything that is going on within the business. Having said that our culture and the simplicity of our business model means that my job as CCO is relatively straightforward. The credit for this must be given to the Buying Department who work hard with Suppliers to create mutually beneficial collaborative relationships.

If you could change one thing about the groceries market, what would it be?

Aldi is an international business so I don't just look after GSCOP. I am involved in the Supply Chain Initiative and am looking at the Competition and Consumer Protection Bill for the Irish Republic too. It would be great if all of these initiatives could be united under one common code.

Is there anything else you would like to share with readers of News from the Adjudicator?

Even though Aldi has done very well in the first two GCA surveys there are still areas that I want to improve on. I would also like to encourage our Suppliers to contact me if they have any Code related concerns.

What 3 things do you want to achieve in the next 12 months?

I want to continue to raise awareness of the Code with our supply chain and to improve the training that we offer to our Buyers, whether they are new starters or experienced members of the team. These two combined will assist in maintaining our strong culture of compliance with the Code.

What achievement as CCO are you most proud of?

That's an easy one. Aldi has been chosen by our suppliers as the retailer most compliant with the Code for the first two years that the GCA survey has been run. This is a huge result for Aldi and proves that being a successful business and looking after your suppliers are not mutually exclusive.