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To:
Integrated Permitting Services
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Subject: Request for Prioritisation of Environmental Permit Application – Inspired Global Cuisine Ltd, Oldham

Dear Sir/Madam,

Inspired Global Cuisine Ltd (IGC) respectfully requests that the Environment Agency (EA) consider prioritising determination of our Environmental Permit Application for our new manufacturing and distribution facility in Oldham.

IGC is a leading UK producer of frozen ready meals, soups, and sauces, operating under full EA Permit **EPR/NPPY/V002** at our Gorton facility. We produce approximately 58 million meals (26,000 tonnes) per annum and have invested over £20 million pounds in the past decade to ensure full compliance and sector-leading environmental performance.

Since the permit was first issued, we have remained fully compliant and have built a strong, professional, and collaborative working relationship with our regulatory officer. We wish to continue that same partnership approach at Oldham.

Our Gorton site is also a signatory to WRAP's UK Food Waste Reduction Roadmap, pledging a 50% reduction in food waste by 2030, and we remain active participants in the Climate Change Agreement (CCA) scheme, evidencing our long-term commitment to measurable carbon reduction and sustainable manufacturing.

However, despite these successes, Gorton is now land-locked and lacks the space or infrastructure required to operate sustainably. To maintain throughput, we depend on third-party storage depots for raw materials and finished goods. This creates unnecessary daily vehicle movements, higher fuel usage, and elevated transport-related emissions, all of which we aim to eliminate.

The new Oldham development, scheduled for full production commencement by **30 March 2026**, represents a £40 million pound capital investment and is a significant advancement in our sustainability journey, as well as a key milestone for business continuity and national retail supply contracts. Once operational, it will create over 400 new skilled local jobs, bringing our total workforce to more than 750 colleagues across the business. This expansion will deliver substantial economic and community benefits to the Borough of Oldham.

The facility has been designed entirely around Best Available Techniques (BATs) and low-carbon infrastructure, including:

- By consolidating material, packaging, and finished-product storage on site, we will shorten supply routes, reduce CO₂ per meal, and create a more circular, low-carbon supply chain.
- 3 MW solar PV system generating approximately 25% of the site's annual energy demand and saving an estimated 643,635 kg CO₂e per year;
- High-efficiency Cochran boilers with condensate heat recovery to optimise gas use.
- Two Azane ammonia refrigeration systems with zero global warming potential, heat recovery and automated leak detection.
- Carbon dioxide-based chillers for low-temperature areas, replacing high-GWP refrigerants.
- An integrated Building Management System for proactive monitoring of utilities and energy efficiency.
- Comprehensive surface-water protection, including interceptors with oil and fuel detection, penstocks for containment, and attenuation ponds for controlled release.

Together, these measures will reduce operational carbon intensity by more than 25% compared with Gorton, delivering clear environmental improvement and resilience aligned with the EA's pollution-prevention and Net Zero objectives.

The new facility replaces an ageing but responsibly managed site, resolving historic inefficiencies such as single-point boiler dependency, limited segregation capacity, and use of R448A refrigerant for factory cooling.

Given our proven compliance record, substantial investment, and the quantifiable environmental benefits this project will deliver, we respectfully request that the EA consider our application for priority determination within the food and drink sector.

We remain fully committed to transparent engagement and to maintaining the high standards of environmental performance already demonstrated under our existing permit.

Thank you for your consideration. Should any further information be required, please contact:

Matthew Stott – Environmental Compliance and TACCP Manager

Matthew Parkes – HSE Manager

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Yours faithfully,



Mark Ditch

Managing Director