

# Orridge UK Retail Return to Profit Strategy

Dan Prickett
Chief Operating Officer

12 June 2019



#### **Disclaimer**

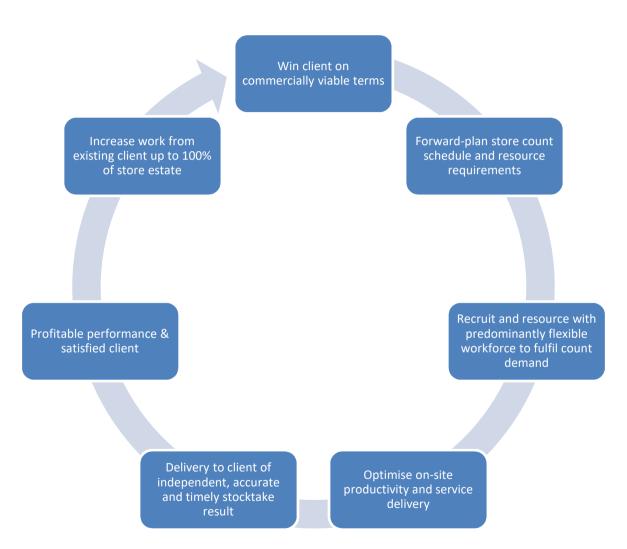
The information in this document is not intended for distribution to, or use by, any person or entity in any jurisdiction or country where such distribution or use would be contrary to local law or regulation. It is the responsibility of any person publishing or communicating the contents of this document or communication, or any part thereof, to ensure compliance with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements. The content of this document does not represent or constitute a prospectus or invitation in connection with any solicitation of capital. Nor does it constitute an offer to sell securities, a solicitation or an offer to buy or sell securities or a distribution of securities in the United States or to a U.S. person, or in any other jurisdiction where it is contrary to local law. Such person should inform themselves about and observe any applicable legal requirements.

This presentation contains forward looking statements. Although Christie Group believes that the estimates and assumptions on which such statements are based are reasonable, they are inherently uncertain and involve a number of risks and uncertainties that are beyond Christie Group's control. Christie Group does not make any representation or warranty that the results anticipated by such forward looking statements will be achieved and this presentation should not be relied upon as a guide to future performance. Christie Group has provided the material contained in this document for general information purposes only. Christie Group accepts no responsibility and shall not be liable for any loss whatsoever which may arise from any reliance upon the information provided in this document.

#### Overview of the retail stocktaking business model



Inter-related process flow aimed at delivering professional service standard to clients



- Retail stocktaking services can appear a relatively simple concept
- Commercially viable pricing is key at the outset
- Must then be followed by highly efficient logistics process and planning to recruit and resource variable count demands
- Predominantly casual workforce must then stocktake with accuracy at efficient count speeds
- End result should be a satisfied client who is willing to increase work for Orridge or a successful tender for new business, and a profitable result for Orridge

#### So what has gone wrong?



Highly competitive sector, rising wage costs and decline in operational efficiency have resulted in previously profitable operation generating losses

UK Retail generated £1.0m contribution to Group in 2009 – an 8.1% return on revenue

> From that level of performance, gross profit margins had declined by 13% by the end of 2018

Pressures on Retail sector saw onset of aggressive procurement processes and competitors willing to engage in low pricing

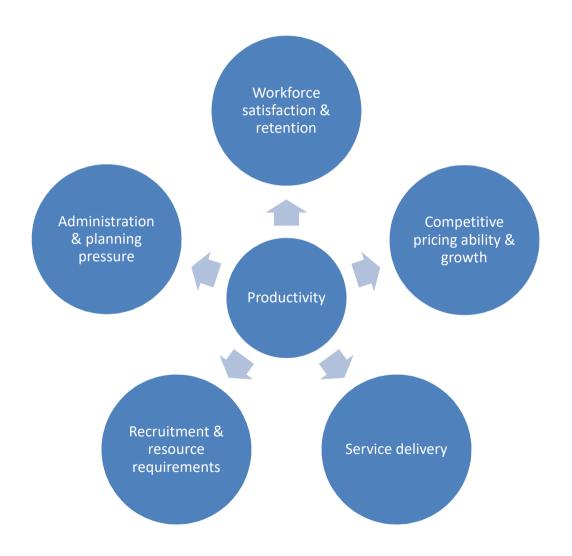
Minimum wage levels increased significantly over the same period – 43% between April 2009 and April 2019

Business focused on cost control as productivity levels declined & labour market became ultra competitive

# **Productivity is absolutely key**



Optimising the speed with which counts are carried out is fundamental to a successful UK Retail operation



- Productivity principally count speed – impacts on every other factor in delivering a successful Orridge
- performance in this area leads to uncompetitive pricing, overruns and other service issues, increased recruitment needs and pressure on the planning teams resulting in sub-optimal decision-making
- As such aligning the workforce remuneration and incentivisation with this is key

## Aligning pay & productivity



New pay model creates different method of incentivisation to drive productivity and combat labour market pressures

New pay model launched April 2019 – Major change to that previously used

Incentivised pay grading providing opportunity for counter pay at NMW +15%

Aim is to broaden productivity rates already being achieved across a greater % of the stocktakers

More competitive pay rates for recruitment



Increased staff rewards = lower staff churn



Productivity
based so
lower count
rates remains
at NMW rate

## Addressing the challenges of a flexible workforce



Recognising the casual workforce as a consumer with options is key

- Hourly paid casual workforce is flexible to varying count patterns and seasonality but presents challenges to manage
- Hourly paid workers enjoy the flexibility of the work but can choose where they go and when they work – zero hours can equal zero commitment in a high employment labour market
- Supervisors who manage counts on site are key to count fulfilment and driving count rates during the count itself
  - Increasing profile of permanent supervisors to that traditionally used will create more stable workforce
  - Will improve count fulfilment due to increased reliability
  - Client experience improved
  - Upskilling and training of those supervisors becomes more viable to drive counting team productivity improvements further
- Flexible workforce is effectively another client whose onboarding experience must be easy – we have further improvements to make in H2 in this area



#### Commercial reality & opportunity in the retail sector



More commercial reality from clients to pricing in face of wage inflation while new opportunities continue to arise for independent stocktaking services

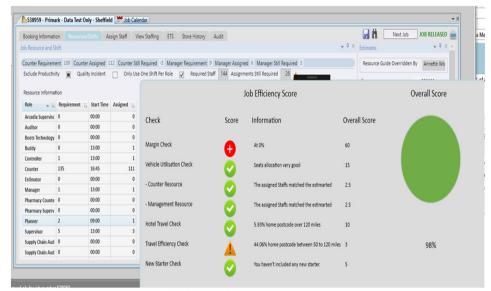
- Despite the challenges of recent years, Orridge has a strong record of retaining blue chip retailers and its client base remains strong
- While there are well publicised challenges for some retailers commonly around landlord-focused CVAs as property costs have become untenable – our own experience has been limited in that respect to date
- The success of Primark, Lidl etc highlights that retailers can continue to succeed despite changes in consumer habits
- Demand for independent stocktaking services remains prevalent with retailers who have not outsourced now opting to do so
- Pricing expectations for these types of clients are not uncommercial or unrealistic where pre living wage it was typically a procurement-led race to the bottom
- Our own pricing strategy is clear and we will not take on work which we cannot
  price at a level able to generate an appropriate margin or which is fundamentally
  loss-making in view of our overheads
- Similarly we will continue to seek renegotiation of commercial terms with a number of successes to date which have continued into 2019 – on longer term relationships we perceive as inadequate commercially

#### **Technology developments**



A number of developments in H1 2019 are to be followed by further investment going forward to enhance client experience and increase operational efficiencies

- 'Green screen' tool developed in house to enhance scheduling & planning decisions and drive profitable job planning
- Fleet management enhanced through implementation of vehicle telematics
- Alongside new pay model we have developed incount reporting of target count rates to drive incount management and counter performance
- More to do in H2 eg mobile optimisation of worker portal, enhancing worker availability and onboarding experience
- Client demands for technology supplements to existing service are increasing
- Use of tablets for in-count visibility and reporting and improved online reporting tools are most typical
- Equipment we have is capable of upgrade to accommodate 2D codes and RFID if client demand increases



#### ABOUT TELEMATICS

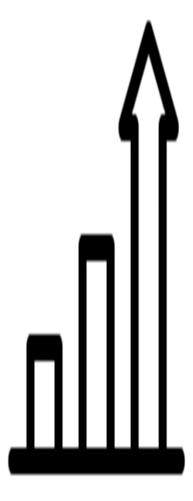




#### Realistic objective is a return to sustainable profitability in 2020

- Aim is to return business to sustainable annualised profits, noting what it has previously proved capable of
- Expectation is that the 2020 budget will be based on profitable performance from UK Retail
- Further work to be done in H2 2019 on operational efficiencies, technology, processes and staffing models to create infrastructure necessary
- Changes being made are intended to be long term changes to ensure sustainability moving forwards
- That recognises need to invest in the key resources of the business people & technology
- Incremental overheads of business can be controlled to create healthy margin on growth revenues
- Return to profit can then provide foundation for subsequent growth in revenues
- Reasonable to expect revenue growth in retail stocktaking to deliver incremental operating profit margins consistent with Group strategy





Q&As