

Sir Philip Green's Arcadia retail empire has apologised after claims it would pay some head office staff only half of their redundancy pay.

All affected employees would get full pay, the firm said.

High Street retail is one sector of the UK economy that has been hit hard by the coronavirus crisis, with shop closures during lockdown followed by reduced footfall in shops.

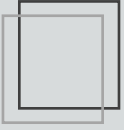
While retail sales rebounded in July, rising above pre-pandemic levels, the ONS said clothing shops had been the worst hit during the pandemic and the volume of sales remained 25.7% lower than in February.

**Sir
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'sorry'
after
notice
pay row**
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To try to soften the coronavirus blow to the economy, in March the government put in place the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, which paid 80% of the wages of workers placed on leave, up to a maximum of £2,500 a month.

That scheme has been winding down and, from the beginning of September, companies using the scheme have had to start contributing to workers' wages.

The statement said it had been forced to make "many tough decisions" during the coronavirus pandemic, including the restructuring of its offices.



There is no doubt that the impact of the coronavirus on the UK and the world economy is huge. It requires the company and the country to bear all the economic problems, and must solve the negative effects of all these as quickly as possible.



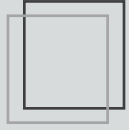
The statement said it had been forced to make “many tough decisions” during the coronavirus pandemic, including the restructuring of its offices. It had looked to protect the welfare of staff and customers, and observed all the guidelines and legislation, it added.



The company revised its wrong policy during the period of the COVID-19 to ensure that all affected employees will receive full pay.



The Unite union had threatened legal action on behalf of more than 40 head-office staff over pay after claims it was paying them only 50% of their notice pay. It hailed the "U-turn" by Arcadia as a victory for employees.



Words



Redundancy pay & entitlements

If you've been in the same job for at least two years your employer has to pay you redundancy money. The legal minimum is called 'statutory redundancy pay'

Scheme

program&plan

Wind down

to end, or to finish something gradually

Unreservedly

Completely, without any doubts or feeling of being uncertain.