



RETAIL GAZETTE

Forward Features 2020

2020 Features Schedule

January

LOOKING AHEAD: 2020

- What can retailers expect in 2020?
 - Will the shocking year UK retail endured in 2018 and 2019 have a chance at recovery?
 - What issues/topics might we expect to dominate retail news this year?
 - Any trends or issues from last year expected to continue in 2019?
- *Deadline for quotes: Friday, January 17*
- *Story to be published w/c January 20*

February

BREXIT: NOW WHAT?

- Br exit took place at the end of January (provided there has not been another delay). Now what?
 - Will the deal (or no deal) have any benefit for retailers? Why or why not?
 - What's the general health of the retail sector going to be like for the year ahead?
 - Has the retail industry been affected by any of ripple effects from the General Election?
- *Deadline for quotes: Friday, February 21*
- *Story to be published w/c February 24*

March

POP-UPS

- What are the pros & cons to retailers – both established and online-only – launching pop-ups?
- Are pop-up stores a good investment for retailers?
- Are they cost-effective? Why/why not?
- What factors should retailers consider when launching pop-ups?

- *Deadline for quotes: Friday, March 20*
- *Story to be published w/c March 23*

April

GROCERS & OBESITY

- Grocers are often focused on cutting down plastic, but are they forgetting the placement of sugary products placed at eye level?
- Research found that 90% of products on display at eye level were unhealthy. Do we need to do more to hold grocers accountable? How?
- Are supermarkets too preoccupied by other initiatives? Or using them as smokescreens to avoid obesity?
- What are some examples of retailers actively combatting obesity?

- *Deadline for quotes: Friday, April 24*
- *Story to be published w/c April 27*

May

SUSTAINABILITY

- In 2018, sustainability was the centre of focus for many retailers. How's it looking for 2020?
- Where do the Big 4 grocers and major fashion retailers stand in terms of reducing their plastic and/or clothing waste?
- Last year, Netflix's The Patriot Act grabbed headlines for shredding fast fashion retailers' sustainability initiatives and their lack of transparency. How can they be more honest with customers without duping them in the fine print?
- Does working with charities benefit retailers to further reduce waste/plastic? Why/why not?

- *Deadline for quotes: Friday, May 20*
- *Story to be published w/c May 23*

June

CRIME IN RETAIL

- Data from the BRC and unions shows that crime in retail is on the rise. What needs to be done to combat this?
- How can other retailers emulate the Co-op-with its Safer Colleagues, Safer Communities campaign calling on government to protect store employees against crime?
- What are the costs that retailers are facing as a result of crime in their businesses?
- What are some simple ways to help combat crimes such as shoplifting that will have little to no cost for the retailer?

○ *Deadline for quotes: Friday, June 19*

○ *Story to be published w/c June 22*

July

JOBS IN RETAIL

- 2018 and 2019 saw some of the worst rates of job cuts and store closures. How's 2020 so far?
- Why should job seekers consider a career in retail if it's all looking doom and gloom?
- What should retailers do to hire the best talent, and to retain them?
- Are retailers doing enough to nurture shop floor staff? How or why not?

○ *Deadline for quotes: Friday, July 24*

○ *Story to be published w/c July 27*

August

EVOLUTION OF THE HIGH STREET & SHOPPING CENTRES

- It's approaching two years since the government's High Street Fund was announced. Has it made any difference so far? How or why not?
- Which high streets are already evolving to allow for service businesses (eg; hairdressers, nail salons, dentists), residential and office spaces? How has it made a difference for the area?

- Which shopping centres outside of London are becoming increasingly leisure and food/dining-focused? How has it made a difference for retailers that trade there?
- Which aspects of the Timpson-chaired recommendations for the future of the high street, need to be implemented urgently? Why?

○ *Deadline for quotes: Friday, August 21*

○ *Story to be published w/c August 24*

September

CLOTHING RENTAL SERVICES

- Last December, H&M launched a clothing rental service for shoppers in Sweden. Would this be a viable option for UK shoppers? Why/why not?
- A clothing rental service would mean customers would have to subscribe. How can retailers make a profit from this?
- Is a clothing rental service a way to beat or reduce the fast fashion epidemic?
- Is this a concept which premium and luxury retailers can also get onboard with? Why/why not?

○ *Deadline for quotes: Friday, September 18*

○ *Story to be published w/c September 21*

October

BLACK FRIDAY

- Black Friday weekend 2019 was another lacklustre or bleak one, depending on which data you rely on. What can we expect for 2020?
- Is it time for UK retailers to draw a line through Black Friday sales? Or is it still in its infancy and needs a chance to develop?
- Looking at the successes of Chinese retailers on Singles Day, what can UK retailers learn for Black Friday?
- Do extended discount periods leading up and after Black Friday make any difference? Why/why not?

- *Deadline for quotes: Friday, October 23*
- *Story to be published w/c October 26*

November

CHRISTMAS ADVERTS

- An overview of the 2019 adverts from UK retailers
 - Which retailers stood out and why?
 - Are consumers growing tired of the hype that surrounds Christmas adverts? Why/why not?
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- *Deadline for quotes: Friday, November 20*
 - *Story to be published w/c November 23*

December

THE YEAR THAT WAS

- A look at the key themes, issues and news stories that dominated UK retail in 2020
 - Why did they dominate the news cycle?
 - What effects – if any – did they have on UK retail?
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- *Deadline for quotes: Friday, December 11*
 - *Story to be published w/c December 14*

NOTES:

- The *Retail Gazette* is an online-only publication. However, deadlines are strict and non-negotiable.
- The *Retail Gazette* is only seeking quotes in response to the points/questions posed in each monthly topic.
- Due to the nature of retail's fast-paced news cycle, *Retail Gazette* will only consider submissions from the 1st day of each month and for the topic pertaining to that month.
- Submissions months in advance will not be considered.
- Submissions must be in the form of quotes, with a strict maximum of 350 words.
- Additional quotes that do not necessarily respond to the questions are welcome, however it must still relate to the topic in general and must still be within the word limit mentioned above.

- Submissions of quotes are open to anyone. Those that come from direct-to-consumer retailers are given special priority.
- Please note that *Retail Gazette* is always inundated with emails and therefore we can never respond to each request nor can we guarantee to publish each submission.
- Commentary bylines and/or opinion pieces for each monthly topic are welcome, provided the author works for a direct-to-consumer retailer, a shopping centre, a retail lobby group/business chamber (eg: the BRC), or is a retail/finance academic associated with a university. Word count: 600-800.
- Commentary bylines or opinion pieces written by a supplier, consultant, lawyer or any other business that works with retailers, will only be considered for publication if it's part of a wider marketing campaign with the *Retail Gazette*.
- The *Retail Gazette* reserves the right to edit submissions, reject them or select what would be appropriate for the feature in question.

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