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Dear Jessica,

I am writing to you on the occasion of the 70th Birthday of His Royal Highness to congratulate him and to thank him. My thanks are for the inspirational and dedicated leadership he has shown in the area of accounting and sustainability, and the focus and commitment he has shown over many years to make improvements in these areas.

I was born and raised in Southern Africa and had the privilege to spend much of my youth in close proximity to the remarkable flora and fauna in that part of the world. I also qualified as an accountant and have used my qualification throughout my working career.

I first became aware of his work in this area through the increasing prominence and adoption of Integrated Reporting and this grew on meeting Jonathan Porritt. He spoke to me about the Accounting for Sustainability project and the close involvement and support through it for Integrated Reporting. This was when I was CFO of Marks & Spencer, and I was then asked by you if I would be interested in being a founder member of a CFO network for A4S. I agreed and was proud to be playing a small part in an activity that I feel the finance community has often viewed as "not for us". When I moved to a similar role as CFO at Tesco, which is the largest food retailer in the UK and also operates in a number of other countries, I was pleased to be asked to continue as a member. Tesco's focus on building sustainable partnerships with its suppliers and their communities across the globe aligns perfectly with the goals of A4S.

Food and its production and climate change are intimately related, and it is the sustainability of this, in a world where population growth is so high, that makes me convinced that the efforts that His Royal Highness makes to support (and at times cajole and challenge) me and my colleagues in the network are so important.

The focus on measuring is so critical in this area and despite the challenges of incomplete information I believe we should continue to try to improve the quality of information and our reporting in the area of sustainability. In this respect the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals cannot be overstated. Equally, the commitment that the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosure seeks is an area where I believe we as the financial officers in business should focus. The A4S network is growing

into other parts of the world from where it started, and this is also important, as it is through growth and advocacy that increased awareness and action will come.

I'd also like to thank you and your dedicated colleagues at A4S for your continued work. Without your support and continued attention it would be too easy for the other demands of business to push this critical area lower in priority. I know that the work of A4S acts as a strong and important support to many people working in finance organisation in businesses, at all levels, who believe that we owe it to those who come after us to protect and nurture the planet.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Alan Stewart  
Chief Financial Officer