



4 March 2021

APPOINTMENT OF XENIA WALTERS AS GROUP CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

YO!, the global multi-channel, multi brand Japanese and Asian food group, today announces that Xenia Walters has been appointed as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and an Executive Director of the Board, effective 8 March 2021.

Xenia brings with her over 20 years' extensive experience working in a variety of senior roles with international groups gaining broad financial, business and international experience. Most recently she held the role of group CFO of SDL PLC, the listed professional services provider, where she helped drive the successful transformation and merger with RWS Holdings, creating the world's leading language service and technology group with a market capitalisation of c£2.4 billion.

Prior to SDL, Xenia held CFO roles in a number of private equity backed businesses including Frank Recruitment Group, Oxford International Education Group and INTO University Partnerships. Earlier in her career, Xenia held senior roles at Regus PLC, including UK CFO and group financial controller. Xenia, a chartered accountant, started her career with PwC and holds an MBA from Henley Management School.

Richard Hodgson, Chief Executive Officer, said:

"I'm delighted that Xenia has agreed to join the Group's executive team. She has an impressive track record of helping businesses navigate growth, as well as managing teams and developing best practice processes in complex multinational organisations. These factors, together with her experience in driving transformational change, will make her an invaluable member of the team as we continue to execute on our diversification strategy."

Xenia Walters, incoming Chief Financial Officer, said:

"I'm excited to be joining YO! at this moment in the group's development – as it continues to reinforce its leading positions in the markets it serves, as well as grow through new opportunities. I look forward to working closely with Richard and the rest of the executive team to collectively ensure the group delivers on its full potential."

-ENDS-

Press Contacts

Headland:

Francesca Tuckett/ Toni Heijbroek yosushi@headlandconsultancy.com

About YO!

Founded in 1997, YO! (formerly YO! Sushi) was the first to bring to the UK the concept of a Japanese 'kaiten' sushi bar that delivered food via a conveyor belt. Today, YO! has over 80 sites across the globe in the UK, United States, Europe and the Middle East and serves over 7 million customers a year.

In November 2017, the group acquired North America's second largest sushi brand, Bento Sushi, creating one of the largest sushi companies outside of Japan. Bento sells almost 20 million servings of sushi a year through 600 conveniently located 'grab and go' kiosks and sushi bars in supermarkets, colleges and universities, shopping centres and workplace catering facilities. In April 2018, the group subsequently acquired Taiko Foods Limited, the first company to produce sushi for a supermarket, and supplier to Waitrose. In July 2019, the Group merged with SnowFox, the second largest sushi kiosk company in the US, making it the largest Japanese food company outside of Japan.

These acquisitions have significantly diversified the group's business model by creating a global multi-brand, multi format Japanese food platform. The combined YO! Group is well positioned to meet the growing demand for Japanese food and healthy eating in restaurants, on-the-go, and in supermarkets.

YO! sources all its fish from reputable suppliers who share the same concerns with regards to environmental issues and sustainability of at-risk species through overfishing and the subsequent depletion of certain fish.

YO! was acquired by Mayfair Equity Partners in November 2015.