

issues recorded in SGS's internal reports are promptly addressed by Choice. As noted, these vigorous daily reports are meant to put Choice well above the "pass" standard for various categories in the BAP audit. This is because Choice is dedicated to ensuring its customers enjoy the highest-possible quality product, and the same reason why Choice is an industry leader. Thus, you have been completely misled by Mr. Farinella and whatever review you have done, as to the purpose of the voluntary internal SGS daily reports, and there is no contradiction between these reports and the external-facing BAP audit.

4. Senior Choice Canning management approving the underpayment of workers, and complaints to local police by workers who did not receive payment or who received payment long after it was due;

RESPONSE: Once again, this "finding" is false, baseless, and defamatory. You have been misled by convicted multiple-time Felon Mr. Farinella and doing an incomplete investigation. If you have any evidence of senior Choice management "approving the underpayment of workers" please provide it, but we are sure you cannot, as none exists. As mentioned, many of Choice's workers are temporary and are employed through third-party labor contractors. Choice always has made every single wage payment to a contractor on time.

There was however, a single instance with a new contractor where Choice discovered that the contractor had not distributed wages to workers, despite being timely and fully paid by Choice. The police investigated the contractor, not Choice. You reference a local news report on this incident, and it is true that a local news source initially provided incorrect information. Presumably, this was the only news report that Mr. Farinella provided to you, in order to mislead and deceive you, as he is very apt at doing.

What Mr. Farinella did not mention and you did not find, was *the very next day* the same news source printed a corrected article, which cleared the record, cleared Choice of any wrongdoing, noted that the police forced the contractor to pay the workers their wages inside the police station. Attached as **Exhibit D** please find the original Hindi news article on the incident and **Exhibit E** is the English translation.

Of course, once this issue was brought to Choice's attention, Choice terminated the contractor. To date no such incident has occurred again. The assertion that senior Choice management "approv[ed] the underpayment of workers" is recklessly false and defamatory.

5. Choice Canning staff complaints about inadequate living conditions on-site, including worker dorms without proper bedding, or with unhygienic canteen food,

RESPONSE: Once again, this "finding" is false, baseless, and defamatory. For your information, Choice is one of the few shrimp processors to have passed the highly demanding BSCI social audit, conducted by the Belgian firm Amfori. The "social" audit consists in large part of interviewing large numbers of Choice's workers, along with a complete inspection of the premises. Attached as **Exhibit F** is a copy of Choice's "social audit" in which it received an overall grade of A. Choice