

Business

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MW Eat chairman warns on minimum wage 'pressure'

LABOUR shortages and reduced lunchtime demand as work from home hours remain popular are among the big challenges facing central London's eating-out sector in 2024, the chairman of Indian restaurant group MW Eat said today.

Ranjit Mathrani's comments came as the firm behind the Masala Zone chain, Amaya, left, and Chutney Mary, posted results showing profits and sales are up, but also headwinds hitting the industry. Mathrani added that other factors including higher minimum wage bills will also put "great pressure on smaller restaurants particularly at the lower to mid-price points".

He founded the business, which has seven London restaurants, with his wife Namita in 1989. They now run it with Mathrani's sister-in-law Camella Panjabi.

Recently filed accounts show turnover jumped to £26.3 million from £17.2 million in the year ending March 2023, and pre-tax profits rose to £1.2 million from £460,858.

Mathrani said that in the current financial year overall turnover and profitability have continued to improve, "but have yet to reach pre-pandemic levels in real terms".

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