

James Lester Appointed as MD of Eurest, Dine and 14forty

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James Lester has been appointed as the new MD of Eurest, Dine and 14forty. James is joining the business during a period of exceptional growth. He joins from CBRE, bringing a great balance of food and FM expertise to the role.

An energetic growth orientated leader, James will bring a client-first approach, along with a fresh perspective on innovation, customer experience and operational excellence.

James has a strong track record in food and support services, having worked in outsourcing for over 20 years. He is also not new to [Compass](#) having previously worked in its Restaurant Associates business over 10 years ago.

Commenting on the appointment, Robin Mills, CEO, Compass Group UK & Ireland said “I am delighted to welcome James back to the business. It’s a great time to join, with Eurest, Dine and 14forty all performing strongly in the market. There are many opportunities for further growth, as more companies look to move to outsourcing or update their workplace offer. It’s going to be great having James’ insight and expertise to further support our clients and teams.”

James Lester, Managing Director, Eurest, Dine and 14forty said: “This is an exciting time to be taking on this new role for these three well-respected and established brands. I’m looking forward to working with the team to really focus on our offers and capabilities, to ensure we are delivering what our clients and customers want every day.

“These well-respected and established brands are at the forefront of food services and facilities management, with true differentiators that align to customer markets. I am thrilled to return to Compass

Group, bringing my expertise in food and workplace services having spent the past ten years overseeing a broad range of customers and industries. I am excited to be working with the team to really focus on our proposition to drive growth and deliver for our clients and customers every day.”

James joins Compass following the retirement of Morag Freathy, CEO, B&I, in December and will be taking up the new role in April 2026.

Matt Thomas, CEO of Restaurant Associates Group will broaden his role to take on responsibility for Eurest, Dine and 14forty on the UK & I executive team and support James with getting up to speed on the business.