[DATE]

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

Dear [\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_]

Debbie Robinson, the Chief Executive of my local Central England Co-op, has raised awareness amongst the Members of our Society of a very important issue regarding the safety of our retail shop workers.

Consequently, I would like you, my local MP, to raise awareness in Parliament, of the very real and particular risks which they continue to face on a regular basis.

You doubtlessly recognise the vital contribution retail workers have made throughout the past 18 months. When most people were told to stay at home, retail workers got up, put their uniform on and went to work, to ensure communities were fed and had access to essential supplies. They have truly been the ‘hidden heroes’ of the pandemic.

However, the issue of violence, harassment, and abuse in shops continues to get worse.

Specifically, I would like to draw your attention to an impossible situation which retail workers face multiple times a day. Under the law, anyone processing the sale of age-restricted products, such as alcohol, energy drinks and tobacco, is obliged to request age verification. In fulfilling our duty to enforce this law, an ever increasing number of customers are responding with violence and intimidating behaviour.

Shopworkers shouldn’t have to face these risks while serving their community and, as my constituent MP, I would like you to take this issue on and raise the matter in Parliament.

Everyone has the right to go to work and return home safely. Please consider my ask before the risk of abuse and violence to those working in retail becomes too high and people no longer want to work in the industry.

I look forward to your earliest reply.

Yours sincerely