

The Rt. Honourable Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

12 May 2021

Dear Prime Minister

We know that you recognise the vital contribution retail workers have made throughout the pandemic from making sure we can all access food and necessities, dispensing prescriptions and providing financial services. They have truly been the 'hidden heroes' of the pandemic.

We also know how seriously you personally take the issue of violence and abuse against them and we welcome the work being done by your Government through the National Retail Crime Steering Group, led by Kit Malthouse MP. The recent #shopkind campaign, for example, was funded by the Home Office and has been enormously successful in reminding customers to treat our colleagues with respect.

However, we all recognise that the issue of violence and abuse is still getting worse. The British Retail Consortium estimate that more than 400 retail workers are physically attacked every day while the Association of Convenience Stores estimate that 89% of shopworkers in local shops were verbally abused in 2020.

Therefore, we would encourage you and your Government to use the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill to provide the legal protection that retail workers deserve. The Bill provides you with an opportunity to ensure that in every part of the UK they have the protection they need.

You can be assured that if you were to use the Bill to provide the protection retail workers deserve then you would have the support and thanks of not just us as a group of retail CEOs but also the millions of retail workers who would benefit from such protection.

Yours sincerely

Jo Whitfield, Retail
CEO, Co-op

Giles Hurley,
CEO, ALDI

James Lowman,
CEO, Association of
Convenience Stores

Roger Burnley,
CEO, ASDA

Mark Jackson, CEO,
Bensons for Beds

Andrew Goodacre,
CEO, Bira

Sebastian James,
President and
Managing
Director, Boots UK

Helen Dickinson,
CEO, British Retail
Consortium

Debbie Robinson,
CEO, Central
England Co-
operative

Barry Wood, CEO,
Chelmsford Star Co-
operative

Alex Baldock, CEO,
Dixons Carphone

Roger Grosvenor,
CEO, East of
England Co-op

Roger Whiteside
OBE, CEO, Greggs

Damian
McGloughlin,
CEO, Homebase
UK and Ireland

Tarsem Dhalwal,
CEO, Iceland & The
Food Warehouse

Pippa Wicks,
Executive Director,
John Lewis

John Brodie, CEO,
Lakes and Dales
Co-op

Christian Härtnagel,
CEO, Lidl GB

Steve Rowe,
CEO, Marks &
Spencer

Jonathan Miller,
CEO, McColls Retail
Group

Ken McMeikan,
CEO, Moto
Hospitality

David Potts, CEO,
Morrisons

Ken Towle, CEO,
Nisa

Peter Pritchard,
Group CEO, Pets
at Home

Nick Read, CEO,
Post Office Limited

Paul Marchant,
Chief Executive,
Primark

Don Morris, CEO,
Radstock Co-
operative

Simon Roberts,
CEO, Sainsburys

Mark Smith, CEO,
Southern Co-op

Jason Tarry, CEO UK
and ROI, Tesco

Phil Ponsonby,
CEO, The
Midcounties Co-
operative

James Bailey,
Executive
Director, Waitrose

Carl Cowling, CEO,
WHSmith