Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood
Home Secretary
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Home Secretary

We are writing to you as significant stakeholders from across the retail sector who have been campaigning for many years for action to tackle the growing levels of retail crime and violence and abuse faced by retail workers.

We warmly welcome the positive actions taken so far by the Government in response to this issue. The Crime and Policing Act delivered much-needed protections for the benefit of around three million retail workers and their employers. This includes the standalone offence of assaulting a shopworker, ending the £200 threshold for prosecuting shoplifters and the introduction of Respect Orders for repeat offenders.

The passage of the Act in April this year was a landmark moment, and we are keen for this good work to take effect so these measures can start to be used to protect shopworkers and tackle the perpetrators of retail crime. We are pleased to see that Respect Orders will be in place from the 26 October and we look forward to a date for the introduction of the standalone offence as soon as possible.

This legislation, alongside the Government's investment in police forces and targeted action to tackle retail crime and antisocial behaviour, is crucial to turning the tide on the epidemic of retail crime in England and Wales. We note that levels of shop theft have fallen over the last two quarters demonstrating that the Government's actions are already starting to make a welcome difference to both retailers and retail workers.

National campaign activity is being co-ordinated in retail stores and town centres during the week of 9 – 15 November 2026 calling on the public to respect shopworkers. We would be delighted to be able to celebrate a date for the standalone offence coming into effect during this week.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers (Usdaw) - Joanne Thomas, General Secretary

British Retail Consortium (BRC) – Helen Dickinson, Chief Executive Officer

Association of Convenience Stores (ACS) – Ed Woodall, Chief Executive Officer

The Retail Trust – Chris Brook-Carter, Chief Executive Officer

National Business Crime Centre (NBCC) – Supt Lisa Maslen, NBCC Lead

Asda – James Goodman, Chief People Officer

B&M – Nicki Benfold, Head of People Business Partnering

B&Q – Graham Bell, Chief Executive Officer

Booths – Nigel Murray, Chief Executive Officer

Co-op Group – Kate Allum, Chief Executive Officer

Holland & Barrett – Anthony Houghton, Group Chief Executive Officer

Home Bargains – Lousie Warpole, People Director

Iceland and Food Warehouse – Richard Walker, Executive Chairman

John Lewis – Jason Tarry, Chairman

Lincolnshire Co-op – Alison Hands, Chief Executive Officer

Morrisons – Jodie Keating, Group People Director

Our Co-op – Michelle Cemm, Chief People Officer

Poundland – Alan Smallman, Retail Director

Sainsbury's – Simon Roberts, Chief Executive Officer

Southern Co-op – Ben Stimson, Chief Executive Officer

Tesco – Ashwin Prasad, UK Chief Executive Officer