



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



Daniel Johnson MSP

Jo Farrell
Chief Constable
Police Scotland
Police Scotland Headquarters
Tulliallan Castle
Kincardine FK10 4BE

October 2023

Dear Jo Farrell,

I extend my congratulations on your appointment as Chief Constable of Police Scotland. I look forward to working constructively with you to help improve the safety and well-being of Scotland's communities.

As a former retailer, I am specifically interested in ensuring shop workers are safe at work. However, the *Protection of Workers (Retail and Age-restricted Goods and Services) (Scotland) Act 2021*, which came into force in August 2021 to tackle retail-specific cases of abuse or assault, has been used 7,955 times in the first two years since it came into effect. Indeed, in all my discussions with retailers, they report abuse cases going up. On top of this, the most recent crime statistics from the Scottish Government show that 30,202 shoplifting crimes have occurred in Scotland in the year ending June 2023, an increase of 21% from previous years.

The sheer number of reports made to Police Scotland alone exposes the scale of the problem that retailers face. I know many retailers are hopeful that under your leadership, crimes against retailer workers and businesses will be one of Police Scotland's top priorities going forward.

On behalf of retailers and their representatives in Scotland, I kindly request a meeting with you to discuss this matter in detail and ascertain how the police can extend their support to retailers and businesses in the future.

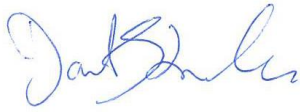
With kind regards

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MSP for Edinburgh Southern

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On behalf of:



David Lonsdale
Director – Scottish Retail Consortium



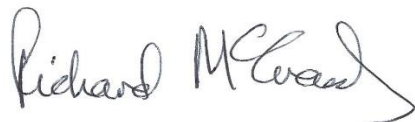
DR. PETE CHEEMA OBE
Chief Executive - Scottish Grocers' Federation



Mo Razzaq
National Vice President – Federation of Independent Retailers



Tracy Gilbert
Regional Secretary – Scotland – USDAW



Richard McCready
Political Officer – The Scottish Co-operative Party



Robert Deavy
Organiser – GMB Scotland