



# Home Office

**Kit Malthouse MP**  
**Minister of State for Crime,**  
**Policing and the Fire Service**

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Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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HOCS Reference: MIN/0002404/20

*J. - Sir George,*

*8. 3. 20*

Thank you for your letter of 4 February on behalf of a number of your constituents about assaults against shop workers.

The Government recognises the damaging impact that violence and abuse toward shop workers can have, not only for victims, but also for businesses, and the wider community.

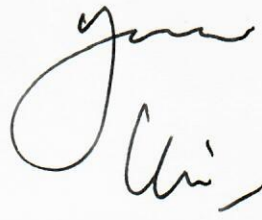
Shops are the lifeblood of our communities and neighbourhoods, and it is important that businesses should be free to trade without fear of crime or disorder. Everyone has the right to feel safe at work.

That is why the National Retail Crime Steering Group brings together Government, the police, retailers and others to help ensure the response to these crimes, and wider related issues, is as robust as it can be. The Group's work to date includes:

- A package of additional support and guidance for staff and retailers, including guidance for retailers to use when reporting violent incidents to the police and guidance on Impact Statements for Business, which give businesses a voice in the criminal justice process.
- The Home Office has provided £60,000 for a targeted communications campaign led by the Association of Convenience Stores to raise awareness.
- £1 million of funding over three years (2016-2019) through the Police Transformation Fund for the police-led National Business Crime Centre, which is working to improve communication between police forces on business crime, promote training and advice, and help identify national and local trends.

These measures will help strengthen our response. However, we recognise there is more to do and that is why the Government launched the call for evidence on violence and abuse toward shop staff to help strengthen our understanding of the scale and extent of the issue.

The call for evidence has now closed - we have received over 800 responses from a range of individuals and organisations and will publish a response in due course.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kit Malthouse', written in a cursive style.

**Kit Malthouse MP**