

[YOUR STORE ADDRESS]

Dear [MP NAME] MP,

Sunday Trading

I was very concerned to read that the Government is planning to suspend Sunday trading laws. As a retailer with a small independent business, these laws give me probably the only advantage I have in competing with major businesses and they help to maintain a balance between large and small stores providing products and services. To undermine shops like mine, at a time when we are playing an essential part in keeping communities fed and supported, feels like a very clear statement that the Government does not value us or the work we have done.

I also know that the current compromise of six hours opening on a Sunday is popular with my customers and the public, striking a balance between the needs of shopworkers, consumers, high streets and all types of business. A Populus poll last month for Keep Sunday Special showed that 58% of the public support the current laws, and only 21% oppose them. I know from my community that many people who oppose these laws would actually like to see more restrictions on Sunday opening, so it is actually a very small proportion who want to see more Sunday trading hours.

I noticed that this measure was being proposed as a way of boosting the economy as we open up after the Covid-19 lockdown. I don't think extended Sunday trading will help high streets at all, it will just mean shops incurring more costs to keep shops open for longer when they will be struggling to bring in sales. I am convinced however that this measure would divert trade away from smaller community-based stores to larger businesses, bringing no net sales growth, a decline in jobs because of large businesses' economies of scale, and fewer local shops like mine.

Please can you write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and ask him specifically what the rationale is for any relaxation given seven reviews since 2011 have never recommended the relaxation of Sunday trading laws as a way to boost the high street economically. I would also like to know where you stand on this issue and whether you would support my business and others like mine my committing to vote against this legislation is brought before Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]