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Dear Chuka,

**PROTECTION OF MICRO AND/OR SMALL BUSINESS PURCHASERS UNDER LAWS FOR SALE AND SUPPLY OF GOODS AND SERVICES**

I am writing further to the proposal made on 3 March by Baroness Neville-Rolfe, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, that the Government would publish a call for evidence on the issue of whether micro and/or small business purchasers are sufficiently protected under laws for the sale and supply of goods and services.

This proposal was made during the Report Stage debate on the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill, as a concession to an Opposition amendment calling for micro and/or small businesses, when purchasing goods or services for use within their commercial activities, to be considered consumers with all the rights of consumers under the Consumer Rights Bill (when enacted).

I am pleased to say that the call for evidence has now been published, thereby fulfilling the Government's commitment on this matter. This is a purely evidence-gathering exercise, to enable further understanding of the issue which has been raised. The Government is not making any proposals or putting forward any preferred options.

I enclose a copy of the call for evidence. I will also place this, along with a copy of this letter, in the libraries of both Houses.

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