



Dame Diana Johnson MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

10 April 2024

Dear Diana,

### **FIGHTING RETAIL CRIME: MORE ACTION**

I am today publishing “Fighting Retail Crime: More Action”, the Government’s plan to tackle retail crime.

As you will be aware, according to the Crime Survey for England and Wales, neighbourhood crime has fallen by 48% since 2010. However, the trend in respect of retail crime is less encouraging.

Last October, at our instigation, the National Police Chiefs’ Council published a Retail Crime Action Plan. This, amongst other things, set out the circumstances when the police should attend the scene of a retail crime. This is starting to bear fruit with retailers reporting they have seen a welcome improvement in police attendance. Nevertheless, this remains an issue of considerable concern and I know this is something which your Committee is continuing to look into, following the Committee’s first report of session 2020/21.

Accordingly, we have produced the Government action plan on retail crime, titled Fighting Retail Crime: More Action, which builds on, and develops, the NPCC document. A copy is attached.

The Plan sets out how we will go further including through the creation of a new standalone offence of assaulting a retail worker; enhancing the use of facial recognition to deal with retail crime; designing out retail crime and sharing best practice; tackling prolific shop theft offenders; and easier reporting of retail crime.

The standalone offence will come with a presumption that the Court make a Criminal Behaviour Order and, on the third sentencing occasion, require the offender to be electronically monitored. A presumption towards electronic monitoring as part of a sentence served in the community for those who repeatedly steal from shops will apply on the third sentencing occasion.

We intend to make the necessary legislative changes via the Criminal Justice Bill which is currently before Parliament.

I am placing a copy of this letter, and the accompanying Action Plan, in the Library of the House.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Cleverly', written in a cursive style.

**Rt Hon. James Cleverly MP**