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Dear Greg,

Thank you for your recent comments during the Employment Rights Bill's ('the Bill') Committee Stage on 9 January. I committed to writing to you on the issue detailed below.

You asked me to confirm whether the powers in the Bill, for enforcement officers to enter and search business premises are any wider in scope than current enforcement powers.

I would like to confirm that the new powers of entry will not be stronger than any of the existing powers. However, they will – with this Bill – apply across the full remit of the Fair Work Agency. Further, we are introducing strong safeguards that are not in the existing powers of entry. This includes the requirement of a warrant to enter a private dwelling.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

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JUSTIN MADDERS MP

Minister for Employment Rights, Competition and Markets
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