



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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Dear James,

Thank you for your letter of 14 January highlighting actions that the ACS and your members are taking to reduce the transmission of Coronavirus.

I sincerely appreciate the effort convenience stores have made to ensure their premises are COVID-Secure. The past 12 months have been an unprecedented time for retailers, and I commend the tremendous effort your members have made in adapting and innovating during the pandemic.

Convenience stores play a vital role in our communities, acting as hubs for local people and having a positive impact on the communities they serve. I would personally like to thank all your members who have continued to provide an exemplary service in such challenging circumstances. I also wish to pay particular tribute to those retailers that have gone out of their way to support the more vulnerable members of the community during this time.

I am deeply shocked about reports of violence and abuse aimed at shop workers. I fully appreciate that it is incredibly difficult for convenience stores to ensure their customers remain fully compliant, given the lack of resources available to small retailers. As you are aware, we will continue to work closely with the National Retail Crime Steering Group (NRCSG) on actions identified in the call for evidence.

I am very grateful for your continued constructive engagement with BEIS and other Government departments, and I am grateful to you for highlighting these important issues.

Yours sincerely,

PAUL SCULLY MP
Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Labour Markets
Minister for London