**DATE**

**PCC NAME**

**PCC ADDRESS**

**PCC ADDRESS**

**PCC ADDRESS**

Dear **NAME**

I am an independent retailer, trading at **ADDRESS** and also a member of ACS (the Association of Convenience Stores). I’m writing to invite you to show your support for tackling shop theft by signing ACS’ new Police and Crime Commissioner Tackling Shop Theft pledge.

**PCC Tackling Shop Theft Pledge**

Theft from shops is a crime with real victims, and it must be treated seriously. I commit to promoting effective police and partnership responses to shop theft, including:

* confronting reoffending, particularly prolific reoffenders with drug dependencies and organised criminal gangs
* providing Chief Constables with the resources to tackle business crime in my force area
* supporting partnership working in my force area through Business Crime Advisory Groups, Business Crime Reduction Partnerships, and other local partnership schemes
* working to standards on what a ‘good response’ to shop theft looks like, supporting retailer led crime prevention, developing and sharing best practice with retailers, and encouraging them to report shop theft in line with these standards
* always responding promptly to shop theft where violence is involved or where a suspect is detained

By signing up to and supporting the pledge, it shows that you are committed to helping businesses like mine from the growing problem of shop theft. Shop theft costs each convenience store, on average, £1,739 but there is also an increasingly link across to violence and verbal abuse. ACS’ Crime Report found that challenging shop thieves is now the top trigger for violence and verbal abuse.

In addition to signing the pledge I also urge you to review a new report from the Centre for Social Justice, ‘*Desperate for Fix’*. The report represents new thinking on how we can tackle the root cause of shop theft, for example tackling drug addicted offenders that account for an estimated 70% of all shop theft incidents.

I hope that you can support this important pledge to tackling shop theft in my area and I would be happy to arrange for you to visit my shop and see first-hand the challenge my staff and I face. For more information about the pledge or to sign up to the pledge, please contact Julie Byers, ACS Public Affairs Manager by email Julie.Byers@acs.org.uk or call 01252 515001.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

**RETAILER NAME**