



House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham

Immediate release
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Rotherham MP continues fight for local traders in Parliament

Sarah Champion, MP for Rotherham, has this week handed in a petition to Parliament calling for the right to prevent or relocate demonstrations from the town centre.

Over the past 12 months there have been a number of marches through Rotherham, particularly by far-right groups, which have had a huge impact on the town. Small businesses have suffered lost income, with their shops being inaccessible during the demonstrations and many people have told the MP they now avoid the town centre completely for fear of reprisals.

Sarah pledged to fight on behalf of those affected and has put a number of written questions to Government Ministers over recent months. She was unhappy at their responses, which suggested that they had no plans to bring in legislation to help deal with the marches.

In October, traders in Rotherham launched their own petition to try and put restrictions on the demonstrations which were having a major impact on their business. Hundreds of people have signed the petition and the MP has formally presented the signatures to the House of Commons.

Speaking after handing in the petition, Sarah said:

"This petition clearly demonstrates to the Government how damaging these demonstrations have been both to business, but also to morale, in Rotherham.

"Some traders have told me that they are on the verge of going out of business as a direct result of the marches and many others are struggling. These are difficult times already for retailers and the last thing they need is another obstacle in their way which the Government is quite capable of moving.

"I fully support the public's right to free speech but the constant targeting of Rotherham, in particular by far-right groups, has now gone too far. It is affecting the livelihood of a number of my constituents yet so far the Government has refused to do anything about it. For the sake of the community, I am again calling for these marches to be prevented or moved from our town centre. This time I hope the Government will listen and act."

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

For full wording of petition:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150121/debtext/150121-0004.htm#150121101001322>

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If you would like to receive Sarah's E-newsletter to learn more about her work representing Rotherham - please click [here](#) to subscribe