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for Business
Innovation & Skills

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Dear Fiona

Thank you for your email of 23 October to Marcus Jones MP, enclosing correspondence from one of your constituents, about Sunday trading regulations. I am replying as this matter falls within my portfolio.

The current Sunday trading rules in England and Wales, limit the Sunday opening hours of large shops (with a retail floor area over 280 square metres) and were established 21 years ago.

The rules have not kept pace with the changes in the way many of us shop - for example the rise of the internet which enables people to shop online 24 hours a day, often to the detriment of small family owned high street shops.

The Government also believes the current Sunday trading rules limit the ability of our major cities to compete for international tourism. But we also take the view that local communities know best what suits shoppers and traders in their area.

In August, we launched a public consultation seeking views on our proposals to devolve decision making on Sunday trading to local authorities; the consultation closed on 16 September.

The Government is now considering the many responses we received.

I hope this reply assists you in responding to your constituent.

THE RT HON ANNA SOUBRY MP