

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

18<sup>th</sup> June 2020

*Dear Constance,*

**RE: SUNDAY TRADING HOURS.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of Sunday trading and suggestions of relaxing the laws at this time; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

While the introduction of dedicated shopping slots for key workers and the vulnerable has been welcome, I have raised with ministerial colleagues the question of Government thinking around extending Sunday trading, following your enquiry.

As things stand, the *Employment Rights Act 1996* recognises Sunday as a special day for many people and entitles employees in shops and betting shops to opt out of working on Sundays if they do not wish to work. Unless Sunday is the only day they have been employed to work, all shop and betting shop employees can opt out of Sunday working at any time by giving their employer three months' notice, even if they agreed to it in their contract.

As you may know, legislation dictates that a large shop may only be open for six consecutive hours between 10am and 6pm on a Sunday. If a large shop is restricted by Sunday trading hours, they must display their opening times both inside and outside their premises. Small shops, measuring up to, and including 280 metres, can open any day and at any hour with no trading restrictions.

Some large shops are exempt from Sunday trading restrictions, including airport and railway outlets, service station outlets, registered pharmacies selling only medicinal products and medical and surgical appliances, farms selling mainly their main produce, and exhibition stands selling goods. The full list is available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/trading-hours-for-retailers-the-law>.

I understand that some large establishments support a temporary relaxation of Sunday trading laws during the COVID-19 crisis. My ministerial colleagues have advised me that they are aware of this and are keeping the law under review, including the impact on workers. However, I am not aware of any Government proposal to change the law at this time.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*With best wishes,*

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
**CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**