



Business, Innovation and Skills Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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Mr Mike Ashley
Sports Direct International plc
Unit A Brook Park East
Shirebrook
NG20 8RY

3 March 2016

Dear Mr Ashley

Treatment of employees by Sports Direct

I am writing on behalf of the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee to establish whether you will accept the Committee's invitation to give evidence to it at Westminster.

The Committee would like to hear about the action that you have taken in response to reports in the media about the treatment of workers at Sports Direct and about the scope, progress and timetable of your own review of working practices that you announced in December. The treatment of low paid workers and enforcement of the national minimum wage are issues that the Committee will be keeping under review over the coming months.

The Committee noted your invitation to attend a meeting at the company's premises at Shirebrook. In line with select committees' commitment to transparency, it is normal practice for the BIS Committee to meet in public at Westminster and we agreed to adhere to this practice on this occasion.

A number of alternative dates have been offered to you by the Committee Clerk, but as yet you have not accepted any of them, nor agreed in principle to attend. As you will be aware, select committees do not normally need to have recourse to our formal powers to summon witnesses in order to secure attendance; refusal to attend without good reason may be considered a contempt of the House. Should you fail in your reply to agree to attend on one of the dates offered to you, or a mutually convenient alternative before 1 June, the Committee reserves the right to take the matter further, including seeking the support of the House of Commons in respect of any complaint of contempt.

In the interests of transparency, I may make this letter publicly available, and also your subsequent reply, which I would ask that we receive by 21 March.

*Yas sincerely,
Iain Wright*

Iain Wright MP

Chair of the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee