



Department for
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& Industrial Strategy

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Dear Rachel,

I am writing to you in relation to today's announcement of the establishment of a national Office for Product Safety and Standards as part of the Government's response to the Working Group on Product Recalls and Safety (WGPRS) report.

I am aware that you have been calling for greater national capacity to improve consumer safety and recalls and working hard to move this agenda forward. I want to thank you for your contribution to this policy area and to let you know that we will continue to work closely and collaboratively with the stakeholder community to ensure that the framework provides the highest possible levels of safety for UK consumers.

The Office within the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) will deliver an important upgrade to the product safety system that protects consumers from unsafe and dangerous products. It will, for the first time, give us dedicated national technical, scientific and enforcement expertise to lead on product safety challenges.

Its responsibilities will include incident management for large scale national safety incidents and central intelligence to identify and target risks. It will draw together scientific and technical expertise and enable in-depth product testing at scale. The Office will work alongside existing local authority enforcement teams to increase the effectiveness of local activity and to maximise the totality of protections nationally.

As you will know, my predecessor, Margot James MP, established the WGPRS in October 2016 following a number of high profile product safety incidents to consider the safety of white goods and to make recommendations to bring about improvements in product safety and in the recalls system.

If you would like any further information at this stage, please contact Graham Russell, Director of Regulatory Delivery, telephone: 0121 345 1200 or e-mail: graham.russell@beis.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

ANDREW GRIFFITHS MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Small Business