

Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Website www.parliament.uk

Mr Mike Ashley
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9 January 2019

Dear Mike,

I write further to your appearance before the Housing, Communities and Local Government on 3 December 2018. The Committee very much appreciated your attendance and the evidence that you gave on the future of the high street looking towards 2030. During the evidence session you offered to meet, along with other affected MPs, Liz Twist MP, to discuss House of Fraser and your plans for its existing stores. For ease of reference, I have appended the exchange to the end of this letter.

I understand that Ms Twist has made several attempts to contact you to arrange this meeting since the date of the hearing but that a response from you has not yet been forthcoming. As Chair of the Committee, I would be grateful if you could now fulfil the commitment you made to attend this meeting and contact Ms Twist as soon as possible so that the appropriate arrangements can be made (by email to _____).

Once again, many thanks for the valuable evidence you provided to the Committee pursuant to our inquiry.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clive Betts', written in a cursive style.

Clive Betts MP
Chair, Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee

APPENDIX: Exchange between Mr Ashley, Liz Twist MP and Clive Betts MP on 3 December 2018

Q295 **Liz Twist:** I have written to you, Mr Ashley, as well, asking to meet with you about House of Fraser Metrocentre. Will you agree to meet with me today to discuss House of Fraser Metrocentre?

Mike Ashley: No, absolutely not.

Liz Twist: Why is that?

Mike Ashley: If I do it for one person, think of all the other people that I have let down. People keep thinking that I can just do these one-off things. They are not easy to do. It is not because I am avoiding then debate with you. We could get all the people from House of Fraser together—I am not being rude but there are 40 of you—and say, “I will meet a group of 40 but do you want to sit in the same room with the landlords?” I am happy to turn up but I bet the landlords will not be very happy to turn up.

Liz Twist: Okay, that is something that I would like to explore with you later.

Q296 **Chair:** That is helpful, Mr Ashley, that, even if the landlords do not turn up, you will.

Mike Ashley: As long as it is a group.

The full transcript is available to download [here](#).