

# SPORTS DIRECT

International plc

24 January 2019

Liz Twist MP  
St Cuthbert's Community Hall  
Shibden Road  
Blaydon  
NE21 5PT

Dear Ms Twist

## **House of Fraser**

Thank you for your various messages.

I regret that I have not been able to reply more swiftly - but as you will appreciate this is a particularly busy period for us generally.

We have continued to work hard to save stores and jobs from recent acquisitions and the Christmas/New Year trading period.

In that respect I thought that you would be pleased to know that we have managed to conclude (amongst others) a lease in relation to the House of Fraser store in the Metrocentre, Gateshead - which you had been asking about and you may have seen that we have made an announcement on stores.

In relation to attending a meeting with you (if it is still relevant in light of the above) - I should point out that I did not agree during my voluntary evidence at the Select Committee hearing to have a meeting just with you. My preference was to arrange a meeting with you and the landlords and indeed any other MPs that have written to me together and you agreed that you would like to explore that with me later. Have you asked the relevant landlords if they would be prepared to attend?

The reason for wanting any meeting to include all affected parties in one go - is to avoid us spending more time answering queries than getting on with the job at hand and because if your priority is to save stores/jobs then the landlords really are an integral part of helping to make that happen. Also, if I don't do the meeting with everyone at once, the danger is that I get into a situation which has occurred in the past where by being transparent to one party I am then alleged by others to have said the wrong thing at the wrong time.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Mike Ashley

For and on behalf of **Sports Direct International plc**

