BHS

Thank you for your letter to the Committees of 24 June. We would be grateful if you could please respond to the questions below which are germane to our inquiries.

1. What business dealings have you had with Sir Philip Green other than BHS?
2. What was your involvement in Sir Philip's bid to buy BHS?
3. What was your shareholding in BHS? Why was it not publicly disclosed?
4. What were the circumstances of you acquiring it? How much did you invest?
5. Why did you not seek a place on the board?
6. What was the role Lady Green in the running of BHS? Did this change during your period as a shareholder?
7. How much did you receive in dividends?
8. Why did you cease to be a shareholder?
9. How much were you paid for your shares and by whom?
10. What was the value of your companies' supplies to BHS in each year since 2000?
11. What was your practice with regard to offering discounts to high street retailers for your supplies, including BHS?
12. What would you describe as Sir Philip's strengths and weaknesses in running BHS?
13. What was your assessment of the state of BHS (a) when it was acquired by Sir Philip (b) when you sold your stake?
4. What was your assessment of the state of BHS stores (a) when it was acquired by SPG (b) when you sold your stake?

15. Did you advise BHS on any parts of the business other than the sourcing, product design and ranges of womenswear? If so, how?

16. You say your work for BHS "very often, 14 hours a day, 7 days a week". Did anyone else take up this work? Did you have a team on this?

17. Was undertaking this work a condition of your shareholding?

18. Did you feel that a "new BHS" had been created by the time you left in 2006?

19. What is your assessment of the performance of BHS, both as an expert and a supplier, since you left in 2006?

20. Why, in your expert assessment, did BHS fail? Was there anything that could have been done prior to 2006 to lessen the likelihood of such an outcome?

We would be most grateful for a response by 1 July if at all possible. We intend to consider the course of our inquiry, including further invitations for oral evidence, on that date.

Many thanks and best wishes,

Rt Hon Frank Field MP
Chair, Work and Pensions Committee

Iain Wright MP
Chair, Business, Innovation & Skills Committee