We are writing to you regarding the contractual arrangements between Sports Direct and Hermes.

We understand that Hermes couriers receive two different rates: a standard one for “parcels” weighing a kilogram or more; and a lesser one for smaller “packets” weighing less than a kilogram.

It has been reported to us that couriers occasionally receive large parcels that weigh more than a kilogram, but are classified as “packets”. This means they are not paid as much as they should to deliver them.

Sports Direct has been reported to us as, ‘the most persistent company for this [practice], who almost always send parcels through as “packets”, saving both them and Hermes on courier pay’. Recent examples of “packets” shared with us include a bicycle and an item that weighed more than 10 kilograms.

Given that a not insignificant number of couriers struggle to earn even the National Living Wage, this latest development is hugely troubling to us.

Might we therefore ask please:

- How many goods does Hermes deliver for Sports Direct, broken down by “parcels” and “packets”?
- What is the average size and weight of goods delivered by Hermes for Sports Direct?
- How many goods weighing more than a kilogram are classed as “packets”?
- What is the largest good to have been classed as a “packet”?
- What is the cost difference between delivering “parcels” and “packets”?
- On how many occasions has the classification of goods as “packets” been challenged?
- What is the value of the Sports Direct contract to Hermes?

Best wishes and we look forward to hearing from you,

Rachel Reeves MP
Chair-Elect, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee

C.C. Carole Woodhead, Chief Executive, Hermes