

Meg Hillier MP
Chair, Public Accounts Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

16 March 2018

Dear Ms Hillier MP,

Re: Reducing Modern Slavery Inquiry

Further to the Public Accounts Select Committee's inquiry titled *Reducing Modern Slavery*, I would very much appreciate the opportunity to meet with you.

Modern slavery is increasingly hindering fair and competitive business in the hand car washing sector and is a hugely significant issue for Petrol Retailers Association (PRA) members. As well as submitting the evidence to the committee, I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss with and provide insight into the substantial work PRA is doing to tackle this issue.

PRA is the voice of the independent petrol retail sector. Representing over 70% of all UK forecourts, we aim to provide services to the motorist at prime locations across the UK's road network, including rural areas. In addition to supplying high grade petrol and diesel fuels essential to economic growth, PRA also represents the Car Wash Association (CWA), whose members abide by honest, ethical and, most pertinently, environmentally-friendly and compliant business practices.

There are estimated to be more than 20,000 unregistered HCWs in the UK accounting for over 80% of the UK car wash industry by volume, and these car washes are often controlled by gangmasters, in many cases employing modern slaves.

PRA is currently working closely with Victoria Atkins MP, Minister for Crime & Vulnerability at the Home Office, the Office for Labour Market Enforcement (OLME), the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (IASC), the Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) and the Church of England through the Clewer Initiative. The objective is to drive out human trafficking and slavery from the UK, with recent evidence now firmly pointing to HCWs as being rife with criminal gangs which thrive on these very activities.

Would it be possible to arrange a meeting so I may inform you further on the scale of the issue and to explore how we can potentially contribute to your investigations?

I look forward to hearing your response.

Yours sincerely,



Brian Madderson

Chairman – Petrol Retailers Association/Car Wash Association