

Antony Higginbotham MP
Member of Parliament for Burnley



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

1 June 2020

Dear Constituent,

Re: Sunday Trading

Thank you for contacting me about Sunday Trading and for sharing your concerns about calls to relax the law.

Under the current law (Employment Rights Act 1996) Sunday is recognised as a special day and employees are entitled to opt out of working on that day if they choose, unless Sunday is the only day they have been employed to work. Even if a person has agreed, in their employment contract, to work Sundays they are entitled to give three months' notice to stop doing so. This is a very important protection, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to take a much-needed break from work.

As you are no doubt aware, the law restricts large shops, with a small number of exceptions, to being open for only 6 consecutive hours between 10am and 6pm on a Sunday. Small shops, measuring up to and including 280 metres, are under no such restriction and can open any day and any hour with no trading restrictions.

There are a range of views on whether these restrictions should be changed as a result of the Covid-19 crisis and the need to get our economy and high-streets functioning again. And it is true that many of the large retailers which used to be under the restrictions now operate smaller convenience stores which can be open longer.

I understand that the Government is keeping the law under review during this time and I will continue to discuss the benefits and drawbacks of any restrictions with them, as well as raising the legitimate concerns by those who have contacted me.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Higginbotham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Antony Higginbotham MP
Member of Parliament for Burnley