



HOUSE OF COMMONS

26th February 2020

Dear local resident,

Thank you to those who have contacted me about Fairtrade - I did attend the reception earlier today and I was interested to see the information on display.

I recognise the importance of Fairtrade and so I am fully supportive of continued support for the Fairtrade initiative. As you may be aware, between 2010 and 2018, the Department for International Development (DFID) invested over £20.2 million into Fairtrade to strengthen the global Fairtrade system. This includes Fairtrade producer and worker organisations that contribute to inclusive economic, environmental and social development around the world. The DFID's funding has also helped support the development of 'Fairtrace' - a technology-based supply chain mapping tool - which has helped Fairtrade broaden its commercial customer base and helps brands and consumers better understand where their products come from.

We must ensure that workers are paid enough to escape poverty and that no one has to work in unsafe conditions. To that end, the DFID continues to improve standards through the ISEAL Alliance, which is the umbrella organisation that represents all sustainability standards. Work has been scaled up, including promoting international standards such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, supporting organisations such as the Ethical Trading Initiative that encourages businesses to pay more living wages, and placing pressure on businesses, through programmes such as ShareAction's Workforce Disclosure Initiative.

While it remains a commercial decision on whether or not to stock Fairtrade products and adopt Fairtrade Principles, I am encouraged that the Government works with the British Retail Consortium to help retailers ensure their supply chains are ethically sound.

I hope that this information is helpful. If you have any further concerns, please do let me know.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jane Hunt'.

Jane Hunt MP