



Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Mike Ashley
Sports Direct

24 March 2020

Dear Mr Ashley,

I am writing to ask for detailed information about the measures that Sports Direct, House of Fraser and Newcastle United Football Club are taking to support their employees during the current coronavirus crisis.

This is a national emergency, and governments, citizens and businesses are taking unprecedented measures to protect lives and livelihoods.

I would be grateful if you could answer the following questions, in relation to your staff at Sports Direct, House of Fraser and Newcastle United:

- How many staff will be designated as “furloughed workers” and therefore able to receive 80% of their wages through the Government’s Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme;
- The proportion of staff designated as “furloughed workers” on full-time, part-time and zero-hours contracts;
- The amount that Sports Direct, House of Fraser and Newcastle United will contribute towards the remaining 20% of staff wages under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme;
- The number of staff who will be made redundant;
- Confirmation that Sports Direct, House of Fraser and Newcastle United will continue to pay the wages of staff in full until the funding from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme becomes available;
- Whether any extra staff taken on for deliveries will be paid the National Living Wage;
- The measures taken in Sports Direct and House of Fraser warehouses to ensure workers are safe, including the provision of handwash and hand sanitiser, sufficient distance between co-workers, and the cleaning of workspaces.

Given the gravity of the situation, I would appreciate a reply by Friday 27 March.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Reeves MP
Chair of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee