(MP DETAILS) (DATE)

Dear XXX

I am writing to you on behalf of your local Trading Standards Service at (INSERT name of Local Authority) to highlight the vital role our service plays in ensuring the smooth functioning of the local and national economy. Trading Standards is tasked with enforcing a wide range of legislation that protects consumers, supports businesses, and fosters a fair and competitive marketplace. To show this, we have included a document which explains the amount and differing legislation we enforce and the impact we make to society as a result.

Our work is essential in tackling issues such as counterfeit goods, unfair trading practices, animal health and welfare, and unsafe products. By safeguarding consumers from fraudulent and unsafe practices, and prevent compliant businesses being undermined, we help maintain confidence in the market. This confidence is a cornerstone of economic stability, as it encourages consumer spending and ensures that legitimate businesses can thrive without facing unfair competition from unscrupulous operators.

Investment in frontline Trading Standards and enhanced collaboration between departments are crucial. Such measures would significantly mitigate potential consumer, business, and economic losses amounting to millions of pounds. Our service is a critical line of defence against economic detriment, ensuring that the market operates fairly and efficiently for all parties involved and protects our most vulnerable residents.

The professional body for the Trading Standards profession - The Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) - has recently set out their vision for the future of Trading Standards and enforcement, in their new [CTSI Manifesto](https://www.tradingstandards.uk/media/3180045/manifesto-final-version.pdf). It makes a number of key recommendations on what the new Government needs to focus on to build back Trading Standards Services, create more confident consumers and help businesses to innovate and prosper. The Manifesto research highlighted a gap in that there is no ministerial portfolio that includes the responsibility for ‘consumers’ in their ministerial title. This is something that has been lost over the years and should be a clear area of importance to your new Government.

I urge you to support increased and ring-fenced funding and resources for Trading Standards, as well as to advocate for stronger collaboration between our service and other relevant departments. By doing so, we can continue to protect consumers, support honest businesses, and contribute to a robust and thriving economy.

In the meantime we appreciate your very busy diary, but we would be keen to invite you along to meet your local Trading Standards team to discuss your immediate priorities and some of the areas we have highlighted above. If you are agreeable, we would be delighted to arrange a date with your private office in the near future, once you are settled into your role.

We look forward to meeting with you soon.

Yours sincerely

(INSERT NAME AND SIGNATURE)