

PE1780/I

Petitioner submission of 29 January 2020

Usdaw is writing in response to comments made by the Minister for Business, Fair Work and Skills in relation to petition PE1780.

When this issue was last discussed by the Petitions Committee, Usdaw was delighted to see the Committee's willingness to investigate the possibility of introducing a ban ahead of New Year's Day 2021. As outlined in the correspondence from the Minister, unfortunately, this was not possible as a result of the relevant timescales required within the parliamentary procedure.

Usdaw is now keen to ensure that such delays are not allowed to negate the possibility of the ban coming into force ahead of New Year's Day 2022. As such, we are calling on the Scottish Government to bring forward a timetable for formal consultation on the possibility of enacting S.2 of the Christmas Day and New Year's Day Trading (Scotland) Act 2007. Such a timetable should ensure that the consultation can be completed within the current parliament.

We note the Minister's comments to the Committee that, "I want to signal my intent to continue to give this matter very careful consideration and to revisit this early in 2021..." Usdaw believes that the discussions towards the end of last year showed a significant amount of work on the issue has already been completed and it should now be ready to progress to the next stage.

Usdaw firmly believes that, based on the positive work and engagement of the Committee on this issue, as well as the results from our own survey, that it is now clearly time for the Government to launch the required consultation.