



January 2023

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about making fashion fairer. The UK supports and wants to encourage sustainable fashion. The Government recognises the importance of buying practices which do not harm the planet.

Fashion is the third-largest manufacturing industry in the world and by some calculations, it produces up to 10% of the world's emissions.

According to the Valuing Our Clothes report analysing the contents of British wardrobes by the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP), we purchased 1,130,000 tonnes of new clothing last year in the UK. Meanwhile, an estimated £30 billion worth of our clothing hangs about gathering dust, because people simply don't have time to wear it all or don't really like what they are buying.

That is why since October 2020, a wide group of stakeholders, comprising retailers, manufacturers and non-profit organisations have been working with the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority to address poor practice and working conditions.

The Government is clear that it expects all UK businesses, including the fashion industry, to respect human rights throughout their operations, in line with the UN Guiding Principles. Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act places a requirement on businesses with a turnover of £36 million or more, to publish an annual modern slavery statement setting out the steps they have taken to prevent modern slavery in their supply chains. The "*Work in Freedom*" programme has supported 433,650 women and girls in the garment sector in South Asia, Lebanon and Jordan with training and access to services since 2018.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY