**Government must do more to tackle retail crime, campaigners say**

* **Current legislation does not go far enough to protect shop workers, campaigners say**
* **Government must tackle the ongoing pressure on police resources**
* **Local campaigners urge Police and Crime Commissioners to include retail crime in their police and crime plans**

**Campaigners today [Insert date] launched a campaign calling on the UK Government to support stronger legislation on retail crime.**

[Co-operative Party activist/Labour & Co-operative Party Councillor] said:

“Retail crime has been a rising issue across the UK for a number of years with a recent report from the Co-op Group highlighting that crime, shoplifting and anti-social behaviour have jumped 35% year-on-year, with more than 175,000 incidents recorded in the first six months of 2023 – almost 1,000 incidents every day.

With pressures on police resources, a number of reported crimes going unattended. This is partly due to cuts which the force has been forced to implement in recent years under this Conservative Government.

That’s why we’re calling on the UK Government to tackle the ongoing pressure on police resources and supporting calls for further protections for shopworkers.

Nobody should face violence, threats or abuse at work.”

**Labour’s Commitments on Retail Crime**

The Labour Party has announced its commitment to introducing a ‘Community Policing Guarantee’ which would put 13,000 more neighbourhood police & PCSOs on the streets. They have also vowed to tackle retail crime by reversing the Conservatives decision to downgrade the response to shoplifting under £200, making it easier to take action against repeat offenders and ending the farce of offending impunity, and creating a new specific offence of assault against retail workers.

In January 2024, Labour & Co-operative MP Alex Norris, the Shadow Minister for Police, attempted to amend the Criminal Justice Bill by proposing that the assault of a retail worker should stand as a specific standalone offence which would mean a sentence of 12 months or fine of up to £10,000.

The Government voted against the amendment.

**ENDS**

**Notes**

* **About Co-operative Party**: The Co-operative Party is the political party of the co-operative movement and has been in an electoral agreement with the Labour Party since 1927. There are 24 Labour and Co-operative MPs and more than 1600 Labour & Co-operative local councillors, as well as elected representatives in Holyrood, the Senedd and the London Assembly and five Labour & Co-operative Metro Mayors.
* The data from the Co-op Group is available [here](https://www.co-operative.coop/media/news-releases/stealing-with-impunity-new-report-sets-out-ten-point-plan-to-curb-career).