



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

December 2018

Dear Constituent

Thank you for contacting me about the Offensive Weapons Bill.

It is important to ensure more work is done to break the deadly cycle of violence that devastates the lives of individuals, families and communities. I know the Government shares this position and is taking action to ensure the sale and possession of dangerous weapons is prevented.

I welcome the Serious Violence Strategy to help tackle recent increases in serious violence. This Government action supports a multi-strand approach including robust law enforcement, early intervention and prevention.

A key element of the strategy is the Offensive Weapons Bill. The Bill contains a range of measures to update and strengthen the law on the sale of corrosive substances, ban the delivery of knives and corrosives bought online to residential addresses and ban the possession of weapons including zombie knives, knuckle dusters and death stars both in public and private. The Bill will also make it harder for young people to buy knives and acid online.

I recognise your concerns on the protection of retail staff. The Home Office has been clear that there are already a number of offences available to cover the full range of unacceptable behaviours that retail staff may be subject to and therefore there I do not feel there is a need for a new specific criminal offence as proposed.

Since the Offensive Weapons Bill was introduced, the Home Secretary has been seeking the advice of the National Crime Agency (NCA) on whether alternatives to a general prohibition is possible while still reducing the potential risk that high muzzle energy rifles pose to the safety of the public. Such alternatives include storage requirements or enhanced standards.

I welcome the fact that the Government has considered the advice received by the NCA and decided that further thought is needed on whether there are safe alternatives to prohibition. This will be achieved through a full public firearms consultation and I would encourage you to take part.

I firmly believe that the Government has a duty to safeguard the public and to take action in this area.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alister Jack".

Alister Jack DL MP
Dumfries and Galloway constituency

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