



Business, Innovation and Skills Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 5469 Email biscom@parliament.uk Website www.parliament.uk

Mr Mike Ashley
Sports Direct International plc
Unit A Brook Park East
Shirebrook
NG20 8RY

26th May 2016

Dear Mr Ashley

Attendance at Select Committee

Thank you for your letter of 16 May 2016, in response to my earlier letter of 28 April.

I am pleased to note that you are able to attend the Committee on 7 June, as invited. The Committee has considered carefully your repeated and conditional request that we visit Shirebrook before this date. You will appreciate that Parliamentary committees, including this one, do not accept that witnesses attach conditions to attending in response to a summons. We therefore still expect to welcome you to the Committee on 7 June.

However, having heard evidence on 7 June, it may well be that a visit to Shirebrook could assist our ongoing inquiry. We would wish to take evidence from you and then consider whether it would be necessary to take up your offer of visiting Shirebrook.

In respect of your appearance on 7 June, I can confirm that you may be accompanied by a legal representative, if you would find that helpful, and that the Committee would not seek to ask questions which would require you to break any commercial confidences. I would also like to inform you that on 7 June we will be hearing evidence from some who may be critical of working practices at Shirebrook so it is important to us – and presumably to you – that we have a balanced view and you have an opportunity to respond to any comments made, as well as to update us on the progress of your own review.

As I explained previously, the hypothetical questions relating to contempt proceedings that you raise would be for the House of Commons as a whole or the Committee of Privileges to consider in the circumstances, rather than for this Select Committee. I am sure that neither of us wants to engage in a potentially lengthy and public process that would follow any non-attendance.

I can confirm that I am also content for our correspondence to be made public and we will be doing so shortly. We do not publish all such correspondence routinely because it is usually purely administrative in nature.

With reference to your further letter of 21 May, you have expressed opinions about MPs and the Select Committee in the media. You will appreciate that Members of Parliament are as entitled as you to express opinions.

*Yours sincerely,
Iain Wright*

Iain Wright MP

Chair of the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee