

Observation to Petition P003193

Bambos Charalambous

Use of shops for illegal activities

Presented on 28 April 2026

Observation by Dan Jarvis, Minister for Security, Home Office

The Government is fully committed to preventing and tackling the use of shops for illegal activities and protecting our local high streets from such criminality.

At the Autumn Budget, the Chancellor announced the creation of a dedicated cross-government taskforce to tackle money laundering and associated criminality on our high streets, supported by £30m over the next three years. This cross-departmental Taskforce – set up in the Home Office – is working at pace to develop a long-term response to this problem. It is considering the full range of powers and mechanisms needed by local responders to tackle high street illegality to determine where existing capabilities need to be strengthened.

I am pleased to confirm that the Crime and Policing Act created a regulation-making power for the Home Secretary to extend the duration of closure orders under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Government is aware that these are important powers that Local Authorities and the police rely on to tackle those shops where criminal activity is being conducted. We intend to launch a consultation soon to help inform these new regulations. As mentioned above, the Taskforce is also considering the broader range of powers that Trading Standards and the police require in tackling this problem, and will support the work of the Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government's soon to be published High Streets Strategy.