

[Name of MP]  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

[Date]

Dear [fill in the name of your MP here] MP

### **Supermarket ombudsman**

The Competition Commission has released its final report following a two-year independent investigation into the grocery sector. The Commission found evidence that supermarkets mistreat overseas suppliers and has issued firm recommendations to help combat these abuses.

Over 42,000 people have supported the call of ActionAid's *Who pays?* campaign for a **new independent Ombudsman** to make sure UK supermarkets play fair overseas – and the Commission has agreed.

I believe this is a fantastic breakthrough that could help the millions of women workers in developing countries who pick, pack and stitch the goods that come to our stores. ActionAid has found that women workers in supermarket supply chains in developing countries often live on the poverty line, earning wages as low as 30p per day in India processing cashew nuts for UK supermarkets.

This is an issue that I am very concerned about. It is now essential that the UK government acts to make sure that UK companies help rather than hinder the fight to end poverty by ensuring the implementation of the Commission's recommendations. A supermarket Ombudsman would make it possible for workers in developing countries to improve their wages and working conditions.

As my MP, please contact the Rt. Hon. John Hutton MP, the Minister responsible, and ask him to:

- ensure an independent ombudsman is established
- guarantee it is fully proactive and has the power to fine supermarkets when abuse does take place within the supply chain.

Please send me any response you get from the government about how they plan to respond to these recommendations.

Yours sincerely

Name  
Address