



**Sheila Gilmore MP**  
**Edinburgh East Constituency**

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Paul Loft  
Managing Director  
Homebase  
Home Retail Group  
489-499 Avebury Boulevard  
Saxon Gate West  
Central Milton Keynes  
MK9 2NW

Our Ref: DR/MCDO02008/01150200  
18 March 2015

Dear Mr Loft

**Homebase, 102 St. Leonard's St, Edinburgh, Midlothian EH8 9RD**

You will be aware that the above store is the subject of much discussion within the Southside area of my constituency due an application for purpose built student accommodation at the same site submitted by Unite Students. The application has been refused by the City of Edinburgh Council but is subject of an appeal to the Scottish Government Department of Planning and Environmental Appeals.

In my objection to that initial application I made clear my concerns at the potential loss of your store to local community, which is valued greatly. That objection, available at <http://goo.gl/G5XgFz>, spoke of your store as follows:

*"In an area which is dense with residential family accommodation, it is welcome that there is a store which provides 'DIY' and gardening goods without having to leave the centre of Edinburgh. Indeed many of the opportunities in the town centre, restricted by floor space comparatively smaller than that of this site, focus on the retail of food and drink, services, and bars and cafes, with only a handful focusing on residential hardwares. It is therefore clear that the retail uses proposed will not be comparable to the current offering. It can never be taken for granted that the current premises will remain tenanted to the current retailer, however it has to be acknowledged that the premises, in their current size and use serves the needs of local residents well. The size, offering and format of the premises are complementary to the town centre and promotes an overall vibrant shopping experience in the Southside adding amenity for existing residents. The reduction of the available retail space is not welcome."*

Residents have now set up a petition calling on Homebase to stay in the Southside. They are asking that the company maintains its presence and does everything possible to keep trading here. They use your store and want Homebase to stay.



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I would be grateful if you would provide your thoughts on the petition and outline your position with regard to keeping the store in the Southside.

Yours sincerely

Sheila Gilmore MP