**[INSERT NAME OF YOUR MP]**

House of Commons,

Westminster,

SW1 0AA

Dear **[INSERT NAME OF YOUR MP]**,

I hope this letter finds you well.

As **[INSERT YOUR JOB TITLE]** of **[INSERT NAME OF YOUR BUSINESS]**, a local building firm operating in your constituency, I am writing to draw your attention to [The Domestic Building Works (Consumer Protection) Bill](https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2920) due to have its Second Reading on 19 November 2021. I urge you to take part in the debate.

The Bill focuses on improving consumer protection within the home improvements market, routing out bad practice and removing ‘cowboy builders’ from the sector. It’s an issue that matters a lot to me and my business. The [Federation of Master Builder’s Licence to Build Report (2018)](https://www.fmb.org.uk/resource/licence-to-build-a-pathway-to-licensing-uk-construction.html) revealed that one third of homeowners had been put off doing major home improvement work because of fears over hiring a ‘dodgy builder’.

Historically, the repair, maintenance and improvement market has suffered a poor reputation because of the bad practice of rogue traders. This stems from the fact that anyone can set themselves up and call themselves a builder, no matter their qualifications or experience. The problem is widespread, with dedicated television programmes on the subject, as I am sure that you are aware.

Ultimately, this completely unregulated environment is extremely damaging to reputable and honest builders who pride themselves on completely high-quality work. For many in this position, they regularly find themselves being undercut by unscrupulous traders quoting lower prices and quicker timescales that are all too often too good to be true. This is particularly the case at present, with cost pressures caused by material shortages. Honest builders risk being priced out of the market, and consumer will suffer.

Rogue traders also harm the construction sector’s reputation, turning school leavers away from rewarding careers in the trades. At a time when there’s a severe and growing skills shortage, we need to ensure that increasing numbers of younger people are entering the sector and, I believe, that heightening levels of professionalism through improving consumer protection is one way to support this objective.

This is all without mention of the deleterious effect these rogue traders can have on consumers. From dodgy extensions to botched interior work, the impact of this bad practice can range from being financially ruinous to extremely dangerous for consumers.

I urge you to support this Bill, and to take part in the debate on 19 November if you are able. For further information, visit [the FMB’s Licensing Campaign pages](https://www.fmb.org.uk/news-and-campaigns/campaigns/licence-uk-construction.html).

Yours sincerely