

## **UK RETAILERS CALL FOR GREATER PROTECTION FROM CRIME**

April 22, 2005

Commenting on the crime research published by Axa, Kevin Hawkins, BRC Director General, said:

"The BRC welcomes the research published by Axa, highlighting that fact that the Government and Police could do more to protect retailers from the threat of criminal activity.

"Last year retailers doubled their expenditure on crime prevention methods and most worryingly, our own evidence shows that violence against staff rose substantially. Retailers face enormous challenges that have a devastating impact on staff well-being and business viability.

"In the BRC manifesto for retail, we have called for stronger penalties to deter retail crime and for the Government and police to take retail crime more seriously. Reducing the terrible and often unseen cost of these crimes is a priority for the industry and should be a higher priority for which ever political party is elected on 6 May."