



Dear Customer

**Changes to Alnwick Mobile Post Office services**

We are pleased to let you know that we will be restoring Post Office services to the communities of Ellington, Lynemouth and Newbiggin by the Sea with the introduction of temporary Mobile services which will start on Thursday 19 September 2019.

Ellington Mobile Service will operate from Ellington Village Hall & Library, Lynemouth Road, Ellington, NE61 5HN, Lynemouth Mobile Service from corner of the Market Street, 10 Albion Terrace, Lynemouth, NE61 5SX and Newbiggin by the Sea Mobile Service will operate from side road next to Chisholm Bookmakers, 67 – 69 Front Street, Newbiggin by the Sea, NE64 6NJ.

We are therefore pleased to inform you that the postmaster from Alnwick Post Office is willing to offer services to the above locations. The establishment of Mobile Services presents the best possible temporary solution to restore Post Offices services to these communities while we continue to search for permanent solutions.

To accommodate the above Mobile services, there will be some minor changes to the current opening hours at Longframlington, Stobhillgate and Pegswood Colliery Mobile Services. These changes will commence from Thursday 19 September 2019. Full details of these services are provided at the end of this letter.

I know that the local community will join me in welcoming this good news and hope that you and our customers will continue to use the services. Please feel free to share this information with those in your organisation who you feel would have an active interest in this particular matter.

If you have any questions about the new services, please write to me via the Communication and Consultation Team at the address shown below. Please note that your comments will not be kept confidential unless you expressly ask us to do so by clearly marking them "In Confidence".

We're carrying out this notification in line with our Principles of Community Engagement. A copy is available at the end of this letter.

Thank you for your support in restoring Post Office services.

Yours sincerely

*Gail Burnett*

**Gail Burnett**  
**Change Manager**

**How to contact us:**

How to contact us:

comments@postoffice.co.uk  
postofficeviews.co.uk  
FREEPOST Your Comments

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**Details of the new temporary Ellington Mobile service:**

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**Ellington Mobile Service**

Ellington Village Hall & Library  
Lynemouth Road  
Ellington  
NE61 5HN

**Services**

A wide range of services will continue to be available.

**Access and facilities**

There is a step into the Mobile vehicle, but an electronic tailgate is available to facilitate easy access for wheelchair users and those with disabilities.

**New opening times**

Thursday	15:30 – 16:00
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**Transport/parking**

Parking available close to the Mobile Van.

**Route**

This Post Office service is located approximately 260 metres away from the previous branch, along terrain.

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**Details of the new temporary Lynemouth Mobile service:**

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**Lynemouth Mobile Service**

Corner of Market Street  
10 Albion Terrace  
Lynemouth  
NE61 5SX

**Services**

A wide range of services will continue to be available.

**Access and facilities**

There is a step into the Mobile vehicle, but an electronic tailgate is available to facilitate easy access for wheelchair users and those with disabilities.

**New opening times**

Thursday	14:45 – 15:15
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**Transport/parking**

Parking available close to the Mobile Van.

**Route**

This Post Office service is located approximately 400 metres away from the previous branch, along varied terrain.

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**Details of the new temporary Newbiggin by the Sea Mobile service:**

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**Newbiggin by the Sea Mobile Service**

Side road next to Chisholm  
Bookmakers  
67 – 69 Front Street  
Newbiggin by the Sea  
NE64 6NJ

**Services**

A wide range of services will continue to be available.

**Access and facilities**

There is a step into the Mobile vehicle, but an electronic tailgate is available to facilitate easy access for wheelchair users and those with disabilities.

**New opening times**

Thursday	13:45 – 14:30
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**Transport/parking**

Parking available close to the Mobile Van.

**Route**

This Post Office service is located approximately 90 metres away from the previous branch, along varied terrain.

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**Details of changes to existing Longframlington Mobile service:**

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**Carpark of King Georges Playing Field, Rothbury Road, Longframlington, NE65 8HU**

**Current opening times**

Thursday	09:00 – 10:30
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**New opening times**

Thursday	09:00 – 10:00
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**Details of changes to existing Pegswood Colliery Mobile service:**

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**De Walden Terrace, Pegswood Colliery, Morpeth, NE61 6UW**

**Current opening times**

Thursday	14:15 – 16:00
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**New opening times**

Thursday	11.45 – 12:45
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**Details of changes to existing Stobhillgate Mobile service:**

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**Carpark of St Aidens Church, Shields Road, Stobhillgate, Morpeth, NE61 2SA**

**Current opening times**

Thursday	11:15 – 13:15
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**New opening times**

Thursday	10.30 – 11:30
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**To get this information in a different format, for example, in larger print, audio or braille call 03452 66 01 15 or Textphone 03457 22 33 55.**

## **Principles of Community Engagement on changes to the Post Office network**

We are committed to engaging and supporting our customers and their representatives as we make changes to the Post Office network. The following Principles will be adopted when communicating about changes to your local Post Office branch.

We will **Notify** - where we are informing customers of changes around:

- Opening hours
- Temporary closure<sup>1</sup>/ temporary service interruption
- Re-opening of a temporarily closed branch in the same site
- Opening a new branch unrelated to a previous closure
- Location used by a Mobile Post Office within a community

We will display a poster in branch (or nearby if appropriate) to notify customers of the above changes, providing four weeks' notice. Where four weeks' notice is not possible, we will provide notice as soon as we are able to. For temporary closures we will include details of the nearest alternative Post Offices and our customer helpline/textphone.

We will **Engage** - where we are seeking feedback on a decision that has been made on:

- Re-opening of a temporarily closed branch in a new location (where the branch has been closed for more than three months)
- Franchising of a Directly Managed branch in its existing site

While the decision to proceed will have already been made, we will welcome suggestions about specific aspects of the change such as access arrangements and the internal layout. We will provide four weeks' notice or, where extenuating circumstances prevent this, we will provide as much notice as possible.

During this period we will display a poster in branch and provide information online. We will contact locally elected representatives<sup>2</sup>, the Consumer Advocacy Bodies and selected charities<sup>3</sup>, providing clear information on any changes to services or access arrangements at the branch. We will ask locally elected representatives to share information with other key community outlets (such as notice boards, local charities, magazines, GP surgeries etc.). We will publish the outcome of the engagement online and in branch, providing a summary of key issues raised with a clear response to each and any changes made to our original plans.

We will **Consult** - where we are seeking feedback on proposals prior to a decision being made on the:

- Permanent closure of a Post Office branch<sup>4</sup>
- Permanent relocation of a Post Office branch (including the franchising of a Directly Managed branch to a new site)

We will carry out a six-week<sup>5</sup> local public consultation, informing customers, locally elected representatives, Consumer Advocacy Bodies and selected charities of the proposal. This information will also be made available online and for a Directly Managed branch a press release will be issued to local media. We will ask locally elected representatives to share information with other key community outlets (such as notice boards, local charities, magazines, GP surgeries etc.).

The consultation will ask specific questions on areas where we would like feedback on access to Post Office services and will confirm when the change will happen if the decision is made to proceed. We will provide clear information on any changes to services as well as access to and into the new branch.

We welcome all feedback with the following factors being taken into account in making our decision, which we expect to make within four weeks of the close of consultation:

- Customer access to, into and inside the new or alternative branch/branches with particular regard to vulnerable consumers
- Any local community issues which could be affected by or affect the proposal

At the end of the consultation process we will write to locally elected representatives, Consumer Advocacy Bodies and respondents to the consultation (where practical) to confirm our decision and provide a summary of key issues raised with a clear response to each. This information will be made available online and in branch (where possible).

***These Principles have been agreed with Citizens Advice, Citizens Advice Scotland and the General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland; the independent statutory consumer watchdogs.***

*What to do if you feel these Principles haven't been followed:*

Please get in touch so we can investigate your complaint. We'll explain in our reply whether we believe we have followed our Principles of Community Engagement and will provide you with the contact details for the relevant consumer watchdog (Citizens Advice, Citizens Advice Scotland or the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland) if you're not satisfied with our response. The watchdog will independently assess whether we have followed the Principles of Community Engagement process (rather than the decision itself) and recommend any actions with respect to the complaint.

**postofficeviews.co.uk**  
**comments@postoffice.co.uk**  
**FREEPOST Your Comments**  
**Call: 03452 66 01 15**  
**Textphone: 03457 22 33 55**

<sup>1</sup>We will provide an update to locally elected representatives if the status of the temporarily closed branch has not changed after 12 months.

<sup>2</sup> Locally elected representatives include but are not restricted to the Member of Parliament, Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly, or Northern Ireland Assembly, Local Authority Chief Executive, Ward Councillors, Parish or Community Council.

<sup>3</sup> Selected charities are local Citizens Advice, Age UK, Northern Ireland's Disability Action and Northern Ireland's Rural Community Network. All parties referred to in 2 and 3 above are encouraged to share all information with local groups and organisations who they believe have an active interest in changes to their local Post Office.

<sup>4</sup> There may be a small number of cases where due to circumstances outside our control we have no option other than to permanently close a branch in a particular location. In these cases the consultation will seek feedback on alternative Post Office service provision in the area.

<sup>5</sup> If the consultation includes more than four weeks in July in Scotland and Northern Ireland or more than four weeks in August in England and Wales we will extend the period by one calendar week. We will not start any local public consultation during the two-week period which includes the Christmas and New Year bank holidays.