



Dear Customer

At the Post Office we are continually looking to refresh our network and ensure we meet our customer needs. I'm therefore pleased to let you know that we are planning to open a new Post Office in your area in Bal's Convenience Store - Premier, 16-17 Birchfield, Fatfield, Washington, NE38 8SW on Tuesday 22 March 2022 at 13:00.

The service will be one of our local style branches with a low-screened, open-plan Post Office service point carefully integrated into the retail counter. Customers will be able to carry out a wide range of Post Office transactions alongside retail purchases. The new service will offer long opening hours, with the Post Office opening hours in line with the retail business.

Details of the opening hours and the key products and services that will be available are provided overleaf. Please feel free to share this information with others who may be interested to hear about the new service. If there are any unforeseen changes which mean these dates change, posters will be displayed in store to let customers know.

We're carrying out this notification in line with our Principles of Community Engagement. An extract relating to Notification is available at the end of this letter.

We hope that you and the local community will support the Post Office network in your area.

Yours faithfully

Gail Burnett

Gail Burnett

Network Provision Lead

How to contact us:

comments@postoffice.co.uk

postofficeviews.co.uk

FREEPOST Your Comments

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.

Post Office opening times & services available	
Mon - Sat	08:30 – 20:00
Sun	10:00 – 18:00
Mail	
First & Second Class mail	
Stamps, stamp books (1st class 6 & 12 only, 2nd class 12 only)	
Special stamps (Christmas issue only) & postage labels	
Signed For	
Special Delivery	
Home shopping returns	
Inland small, medium & large parcels	
Express & contract parcels	
British Forces Mail (BFPO)	
International letters & postcards (inc. Tracked & Signed)	
International parcels up to 2kg & printed papers up to 5kg	
Articles for the blind (inland & international)	
Royal Mail redirection service	
Local Collect	
Drop & Go	
Withdrawals, deposits and payments	
Post Office Card Account	
Personal & Business Banking cash withdrawals, deposits & balance enquiries using a card. Also enveloped cheque deposits and barcoded deposit slips.	
Postal orders	
Moneygram	
Automated bill payments (card or barcoded)	
Key recharging	
Travel	
Pre-order travel money	
Travel insurance referral	
Mobile Top-ups & E vouchers	
Cheques are NOT accepted as a method of payment	
<p>For information about product availability call 03457 22 33 44. For details of maximum value of transactions, please speak to the operator.</p>	

Principles of Community Engagement on changes to the Post Office network (extract)

A full version of this document is available on our Consultation Hub - postofficeviews.co.uk

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 closure¹ / 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.

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.

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

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.

We notify locally elected representatives including but are not restricted to the Member of Parliament, Scottish Parliament, Welsh Parliament, or Northern Ireland Assembly, Local Authority Chief Executive, Ward Councillors, Parish or Community Council, selected charities, local Citizens Advice, Age UK, Northern Ireland's Disability Action and Northern Ireland's Rural Community Network. They are also encouraged to share all information additionally with local groups and organisations who they believe have an active interest in changes to their local Post Office.