



Dear Customer

**Branch Temporary Closure**

**Haltwhistle Post Office  
Belford House, Main Street, Haltwhistle, NE49 0AZ**

We are writing to inform you that, regrettably, following the resignation of the postmaster and the withdrawal of the premises for Post Office use, the above branch will be closing temporarily on Tuesday 30 January 2024 at 17:30.

The provision of a Post Office service to our customers in the local community is important to us, and we will continue to work hard to restore services in the area as soon as possible. We would welcome any applications from potential retail partners interested in running a branch locally on our behalf. The vacancy is currently being advertised on our website [www.runapostoffice.co.uk](http://www.runapostoffice.co.uk) and applications will be carefully considered. If you are aware of any interested parties, please do share the link with them.

I would like to assure you that we are currently investigating the options available which will enable us to reinstate a Post Office service to the local community. In exploring this, it is important that any future service is sustainable for the person operating the service, and for Post Office Limited.

Future provision will reflect customer numbers and usage and we may take the opportunity to establish an alternative type of service. This may be a local style branch which runs alongside an established retail shop in newly refurbished premises and creates a more modern and convenient experience for customers.

If you have any questions you would like to raise about this matter, please write to me via the National Consultation Team at the address shown at the end of the letter. Please note that your comments will not be kept confidential unless you expressly ask us to do so by clearly marking them "In Confidence".

Any future changes to service provision would be handled in line with our Principles of Community Engagement. An extract relating to Notification is available at the end of this letter.

We will display posters in the branch to inform customers.

If you are a local representative, it would be helpful if you could share this information through your social media channels and with any local groups or organisations that you know within the community, for example on noticeboards, local charities and in GP surgeries, to help our customers and your constituents understand what is happening to the Post Office in the local community. If you would like a supply of posters, please let us know.

We apologise for the inconvenience the temporary closure may cause. We hope that our customers will continue to use Post Office services and details of alternative Post Office branches in the area are shown at the end of this letter. The latest available branch information can be found on our website, [www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder)

If you are a local representative, we will write to you again once we have any news about our plans for future service provision.

Yours faithfully

*Gail Burnett*

**Gail Burnett**  
**Network Provision Lead**

How to contact us:

[comments@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:comments@postoffice.co.uk)  
[postofficeviews.co.uk](http://postofficeviews.co.uk)  
FREEPOST Your Comments

## Alternative branches

**There are times our branches may need to make changes to its opening hours.**

**The latest available branch information can be found on our website**

**[www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder)**

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### **Bardon Mill Mobile Post Office**

Outside village Shop

Bardon Mills

Hexham

Northumberland

NE47 7HY

#### **Opening times**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday	08:30 – 09:30
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#### **Services**

Offers similar services, however excluding a comprehensive range of Travel Money, Passport Check & Send and On Demand Travel Insurance.

#### **Access**

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.

#### **Getting there**

This Post Office service is located approximately 4.7 miles away from Haltwhistle branch, along varied terrain. Roadside parking is available nearby. There is a bus service available between Haltwhistle branch and this Post Office service. The nearest bus stop is approximately 100 metres away.

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### **Gilsland Post Office**

Gilsland Village Hall

Gilsland

Brampton

Cumbria

CA8 7BE

#### **Opening times**

Tuesday	13:00 – 16:00
Thursday & Friday	09:30 – 12:30

#### **Services**

Offers similar services, however excluding a comprehensive range of Travel Money, Passport Check & Send and Vehicle Tax.

#### **Access**

This branch has a wide door and steps with handrails at the entrance.

#### **Getting there**

This Post Office service is located approximately 5.4 miles away from Haltwhistle branch, along varied terrain. Roadside parking is available nearby. Public transport is available to and from the surrounding area.

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**Haydon Bridge Post Office**

4 Ratcliffe Road  
Haydon Bridge  
Hexham  
NE47 6ET

**Services**

Offers similar services, with the addition of National Lottery, however excluding a comprehensive range of Travel Money, Passport Check & Send, and On Demand Travel Insurance.

**Opening times**

Monday – Sunday	07:00 – 22:00
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**Access**

This branch has a wide door and level access at the entrance.

**Getting there**

This Post Office service is located approximately 8.8 miles away from Haltwhistle branch, along varied terrain. Roadside parking is available opposite the branch. There is a bus service available between Haltwhistle branch and this Post Office service. The nearest bus stop is approximately 96 metres away.

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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 (extract)**

*A full version of this document is available on our Consultation Hub - [postofficeviews.co.uk](https://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 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.

***These Principles have been agreed with Citizens Advice, Consumer 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, Consumer 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](https://postofficeviews.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.

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.