



Changes to Harris Mobile Service

We are delighted to let you know that we will be restoring Post Office services to the communities of Isle of Scalpay and Amhuinnsuidhe with the introduction of a Mobile service.

We've been working hard to identify a solution to restore services locally and a Mobile service, which is a travelling Post Office aboard a specifically designed vehicle that brings Post Office services and retail products to communities without relying on fixed premises, is a tried and tested way of maintaining service to smaller communities.

We are therefore pleased to inform you that the postmaster from Harris Post Office is willing to run these Mobile services, which presents the best possible solution to restore Post Office services to the communities of Isle of Scalpay and Amhuinnsuidhe. These new Mobile services will commence from the week of Monday 11 January 2021.

To accommodate the new Mobile services there will be some changes to the current services at Bayble, Drinnishader, Laxay, Lemreway, Keose and Leverburgh from the week commencing Monday 11 January 2021.

Further details of the new services and changes are provided at the end of this letter.

We will display posters locally to tell customers the good news. If you are a local representative, it would be helpful if you could share this information 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 these posters please let us know.

As we are keen to restore services to communities of Isle of Scalpay and Amhuinnsuidhe as soon as possible, we have decided to go ahead with our plans. However, we would welcome suggestions about specific aspects of the changes, particularly on the following areas:

- How suitable do you think the new location is and how easy is it to get there?
- Do you have any comments on the proposed days and opening hours?

We will be accepting comments until Tuesday 12 January 2021. We won't be responding to you individually, but any comments received will be taken into consideration as we finalise our plans.

Details of the new service are provided at the end of this letter. For further information or to share your views, please visit our Consultation Hub via the link below, then use the search function to find the engagement for this service either by service name, postcode, or the unique code **135869**

postofficeviews.co.uk

Once the plans have been finalised, we'll display a poster locally and information will be provided on our Consultation Hub outlining the main comments received and our response. If there are any unforeseen changes to the starting date, posters will be displayed locally to let customers know.

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

We do hope that you will support this new service.

Yours faithfully

David Duff

David Duff
Network Provision Lead

How to contact us:

postofficeviews.co.uk

comments@postoffice.co.uk

Call: 03452 66 01 15

Textphone: 03457 22 33 55

FREEPOST Your Comments

This is all you need to add to your envelope for your letter to reach us

Want to tell us what you think right here and now – scan here.

If you don't have a QR code scanner on your phone, you can find one in your app store.



Post Office Limited is committed to protecting your privacy. Information about how we do this can be found on our website at [postoffice.co.uk/privacy](https://www.postoffice.co.uk/privacy)

Items sent by Freepost take two working days to arrive, so responses by Freepost should be sent in sufficient time to arrive before the end of the engagement period. Working days do not include Saturdays or Sundays. Responses received after the deadline will not be considered.

Details of the new Mobile service:

Isle of Scalpay Mobile service

Scalpay Community Centre
Pier Road
Scalpay
Isle of Scalpay
HS4 3XU

New opening times

Wednesday	11:30 – 12:15
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Services

A wide range of services will be available. Customers can still collect benefits in cash using our everyday banking services.

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.

Parking

Parking is available close to where the Mobile van will be parked.

Distance

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

Amhuinnsuidhe Mobile service

Sheileamol
Cliasmol
Isle of Harris
HS3 3AU

New opening times

Thursday	11:45 – 12:30
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Services

A wide range of services will be available. Customers can still collect benefits in cash using our everyday banking services.

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.

Parking

Parking is available close to where the Mobile van will be parked.

Distance

This Post Office service is located approximately 6.7 miles away from the previous branch, along varied terrain.

Details of changes to existing Mobile services:

Bayble Mobile Service, Outside Telegraph Pole, Eagleton, Lower Bayble, Isle of Lewis, HS2 0QE**Current opening times**

Monday	13:30 – 14:30
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New opening times

Monday	11:30 – 12:00
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Drinnishader Mobile Service, Old School, Drinishader, Isle of Harris, HS3 3DX**Current opening times**

Wednesday	12:00 – 13:00
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New opening times

Tuesday	12:15 – 13:15
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Laxay Mobile Service, Islands Book Trust, Laxay Hall, Laxay, Isle of Lewis, HS2 9PJ**Current opening times**

Monday	10:00 – 11:00
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New opening times

Monday	08:50 – 09:50
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Lemreway Mobile Service, Outside Telegraph Pole, 1 Lon Ban, Lemreway, Isle of Lewis, HS2 9RF**Current opening times**

Thursday	11:00 – 12:00
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New opening times

Thursday	09:45 – 10:45
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Keose Mobile Service, The Old Mission House, Keose, Isle of Lewis, HS2 9JT**Current opening times**

Monday	11:20 – 12:20
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New opening times

Monday	10:00 – 11:00
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Leverburgh Mobile Service, Leverburgh Village Hall, Leverburgh, Isle of Harris, HS5 3TS**Current opening times**

Tuesday	09:30 – 11:30
Wednesday	09:30 – 11:30

New opening times

Tuesday	09:30 – 11:30
Wednesday	09:30 – 10:30

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 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.

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 representatives², the Consumer Advocacy Bodies and selected charities³, 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 branch⁴
- 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-week⁵ 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
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¹We will provide an update to locally elected representatives if the status of the temporarily closed branch has not changed after 12 months.

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.