



Dear Customer

**Huddersfield Post Office®**  
**Northumberland Street, Huddersfield, HD1 1AA**

**New Street Post Office®**  
**102-104 New Street, Huddersfield, HD1 2UD**

**Local public consultation**

I'm writing to let you know that we are proposing to merge Huddersfield Post Office and New Street Post Office into one modern new branch. This would be within the vacant premises previously known as Big Outlet Store at 65-67 New Street, Huddersfield, HD1 2BQ, where it would be run by our new retail partner. The new branch would be called Huddersfield Post Office.

**Why are we proposing this move?**

The competitive landscape on the high street is changing and we must adapt and develop to meet the needs of our customers. We are making sure we take the right action to sustain services for years to come. The new location will place Post Office services at the heart of the community, in the centre of Huddersfield's main shopping hub. The proposed merger of these branches is part of our on-going plans to create a Post Office network that is modern and sustainable.

Subject to consultation, we propose to relocate Huddersfield branch into the proposed new franchise premises in November 2018, with New Street branch merging into the new franchise premises in January 2019. Whilst we believe that the majority of customers will choose to access Post Office services at the proposed new location once the merger of the branches has been completed, there are also a further two Post Office branches within 1.6 miles. Details for these branches can be found on the enclosed information sheet.

This move is part of the continuing modernisation of our branch network. Our priority is to ensure that we provide the services that will meet customer needs, both now and into the future, and secure the long-term viability of Post Office services in Huddersfield. We believe the most effective way to do this is through a carefully selected retail partner, and we are confident that our proposal is the best way of safeguarding services for the community for years to come. The vast majority of our 11,600 Post Office branches, large and small, are successfully operated in this way with retail partners and we believe this is the best approach to keeping Post Offices in main shopping locations and at the heart of communities where they play an important role in local economies.

Alongside modernising our branch network, we're continuing to develop our services to remain relevant for customers. As well as traditional mails and other services, today's Post Office network provides for the collection and return of online shopping, offers a 'click and collect' service for foreign currency available from over 3,500 branches, and delivers day-to-day banking for the majority of customers of UK banks - 99 per cent of UK personal banking customers and 95 per cent of business customers can now carry out day-to-day banking at any of our branches.

A wide range of services would still be available at the branch, with the exception of the Biometric Enrolment Service for the Home Office, but DVLA Photocard Driving Licence renewal and Security Industry Authority (SIA) licence application services would still be available. The nearest alternative branch providing the Biometric Enrolment Service for the Home Office is Bradford Post Office, Unit 22 Charles Street Mall, The Broadway, Bradford, BD1 1US, approximately 15.3 miles away.

## **About our retail partner**

Our new retail partner regards the Post Office network as a vital part of community services and has satisfied us that they would be able to successfully operate the new branch in Huddersfield and deliver excellent standards of customer service, with trained staff promoting products and services in a modern environment, over slightly extended opening hours. All staff employed by our new retail partner to work in the new branch would be trained to the highest standards with on-going training on products and services, as well as operational and service related matters.

Our new retail partner is planning to refurbish the premises and install a new modern Post Office alongside his retail offer of cards, stationery, a coffee shop and delicatessen.

## **The new Huddersfield Post Office branch**

The new branch will be a bright, modern open-plan layout which will include a complete internal refurbishment and automatic doors at the entrance. The Post Office will be on a raised area located to the rear of the premises, accessed by three steps or a ramp with a handrail. The ramp will be fully accessible for all customers to reach the Post Office area, with access both into and within the store in line with our stringent accessibility standards and all applicable accessibility legislation.

Directional signage will be provided from the entrance door through to the new Post Office area. There will be eight serving positions, which has been based on current and forecast future business levels; five open plan positions and two traditional screened positions which will also provide travel money services, and an open plan service point at the retail counter. Open plan serving positions are successfully used across the Post Office network, as an alternative to the more traditional positions. They still have a partitioned screen but this is lower, helping to provide for a more personal service and discreet conversations when needed. The serving position located at the retail till will offer customers a selected range of Post Office products and services, without having to join the main queue.

We have stringent standards to ensure good access for all customers and our plans for the new branch include automatic entrance doors, widened aisles, low-level counters, PIN pads, hearing loops and customer seating.

A war memorial is located in Huddersfield Post Office dedicated to those of our colleagues who worked for the organisation when it was known as the General Post Office (GPO), which included what is now Royal Mail. We will be working with Royal Mail to identify the most appropriate place to relocate the memorial so that members of the public can continue to pay their respects to those of our colleagues who sacrificed their lives. We fully recognise the importance and significance of war memorials and, once agreed, the relocation will be handled with great care and sensitivity, including a re-dedication ceremony.

## **What's next?**

We're now starting a period of local public consultation and we'd welcome your views on the proposal. The change of management of the branch to one that is operated by a retail partner rather than by us directly is a commercial decision for Post Office Ltd and therefore we are not seeking feedback on this aspect of the change. However we welcome feedback and comments that can help inform our plans, particularly on the following areas:

- How easy is it to get to the proposed new location?
- Are the new premises easy for you to get into and are they easily accessible once inside?
- Are there any other local community issues which you believe could be affected by or affect the proposed move?
- If the move were to proceed is there anything we could do to make it easier for customers?

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 Offices in Huddersfield. If you would like a supply of posters please let us know.

You can share your views on the proposed change through our easy and convenient online questionnaire via the link below. When entering the site you can use the search function to find the consultation for this branch either by branch name, postcode or the unique branch code **010320 for Huddersfield and 005320 for New Street.**

[postofficeviews.co.uk](http://postofficeviews.co.uk)

If you have a QR scanner on your mobile phone, all you need to do is scan here:



You can also let us have your comments in the following ways:

[postofficeviews.co.uk](http://postofficeviews.co.uk)

FREEPOST Your Comments

**(This is the full address to use.**

**No further address or name details are required)**

[comments@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:comments@postoffice.co.uk)

Call: 03452 66 01 15

Textphone: 03457 22 33 55

Please note that items sent by Freepost take 2 working days to arrive and don't include Saturday or Sunday. Therefore please do allow sufficient time for your comments to arrive before the end of the consultation period, as we are unable to consider feedback received after the deadline.

#### **Dates for local public consultation:**

<b>Local Public Consultation starts</b>	<b>8 August 2018</b>
<b>Local Public Consultation ends</b>	<b>19 September 2018</b>
<b>Proposed month of change for Huddersfield Branch</b>	<b>November 2018</b>
<b>Proposed month of change for New Street Branch</b>	<b>January 2019</b>

Post Office Ltd will host a customer forum in the coming weeks, and everyone will be welcome to attend to hear more about the proposed new location. We're currently finalising details of this event and further information will be provided in branch.

We are committed to engaging with and supporting our customers and their representatives as we make changes to the Post Office network. This notification is being carried out in line with our Principles of Community Engagement which have been agreed with Citizens Advice, Citizens Advice Scotland and the General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland - the independent statutory consumer watchdogs.

I've included information about the Principles of Community Engagement at the end of this letter and a full copy is available to view on our website. Posters and leaflets will now be displayed in branch to let customers know about the proposal and to ask their views.

Thank you for considering our proposal. Any information we receive will be considered as we finalise our plans for the new branch. I've enclosed an information sheet that provides more details about the new location. At the end of the consultation we'll let you know our final plans by displaying a poster in the branch or if you are a local representative I'll be in touch again.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Gale', written in a cursive style.

**Roger Gale**  
**Network & Sales Director**  
**Post Office Limited**

<b>Huddersfield Post Office information sheet</b>				
	<b>Current locations</b>		<b>Proposed new location</b>	
<b>Address</b>	Huddersfield Post Office Northumberland Street Huddersfield HD1 1AA		New Street Post Office 102-104 New Street Huddersfield HD1 2UD	
<b>Post Office Opening Hours</b>	Mon	09:00 – 17:30	Mon	09:00 – 17:30
	Tue	09:30 – 17:30	Tue	09:30 – 17:30
	Wed	09:00 – 17:30	Wed	09:00 – 17:30
	Thu	09:00 – 17:30	Thu	09:00 – 17:30
	Fri	09:00 – 17:30	Fri	09:00 – 17:30
	Sat	09:00 – 17:30	Sat	09:00 – 17:30
	Sun	Closed	Sun	Closed
	<b>New Opening times of Post Office service at retail counter</b>	Mon – Sat	09:00 – 17:30	
Sunday		Closed		
<b>Products &amp; Services</b>	The same wide range of products and services would still be available, with the exception of the Biometric Enrolment Service for the Home Office which is currently available at New Street Post Office, but DVLA Photocard Driving Licence renewal and Security Industry Authority (SIA) licence application services would still be available. For reasons outside Post Office Limited's control, we cannot yet confirm whether a cash machine will be available at the new branch. The provision of a cash machine is subject to a survey by our cash machine provider, operational considerations, relevant consent and planning permission.			
<b>Serving positions</b>	There would be eight serving positions in total; two screened and five open plan and a Post Office serving point at the retail counter. The total number of serving positions has been based on current and future predicted business levels.			
<b>Access and facilities</b>	Access would be level with automatic doors at the entrance to the proposed premises. Internally, there would be three steps and a ramp with a handrail to the Post Office area. Low level serving counters, a low level writing desk and hearing loops would be available.			
	<b>Parking</b> There is a fee paying multi-storey car park at the Market Hall, with 394 spaces approximately 275 metres away. There are 9 designated disabled bays on Corporation St approximately 80 metres away.			
	<b>Buses</b> Public transport available to and from the surrounding areas. The nearest bus stop is approximately 80 metres away from the proposed premises			
<b>How far away is it?</b>	Approximately 515 metres away from Huddersfield branch and approximately 162 metres away from New Street branch, along varied terrain.			
<b>Retail</b>	Cards, stationery, coffee shop and delicatessen			
<b>Local Public Consultation starts</b>	8 August 2018			
<b>Local Public Consultation ends</b>	19 September 2018			
<b>Proposed months of Change</b>	Huddersfield Branch - November 2018 New Street Branch – January 2019			

### **Other branches in the area**

#### **Marsh Post Office**

104 Westbourne Road  
Huddersfield  
HD1 4LF

Mon	09:00 – 17:30
Tue	09:00 – 17:30
Wed	09:00 – 17:30
Thu	09:00 – 17:30
Fri	09:00 – 17:30
Sat	09:00 – 17:30
Sun	Closed

#### **Services**

This branch offers a wide range of services including a comprehensive range of Travel Money, Car tax, Passport Check & Send, National Lottery and On Demand travel insurance.

#### **Route**

Approximately 1.2 miles from Huddersfield branch and 1.4 miles from New Street branch.

#### **Transport**

Public transport available to and from the surrounding areas.

#### **Fartown Post Office**

316 Bradford Road  
Huddersfield  
HD1 6LQ

Mon	08:30 – 17:30
Tue	08:30 – 17:30
Wed	08:30 – 17:30
Thu	08:30 – 17:30
Fri	08:30 – 17:30
Sat	08:30 – 13:00
Sun	Closed

#### **Services**

This branch offers a wide range of services including a comprehensive range of Travel Money, Car tax and On Demand travel insurance.

#### **Route**

Approximately 1.1 miles from Huddersfield branch and 1.6 miles from New Street branch.

#### **Transport**

Public transport available to and from the surrounding areas.

**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.