



Dear Customer

Jonesborough Post Office®
Previously Located at: 67 The Village, Jonesborough, Newry, BT35 8HR

Local public consultation decision

I'm writing to confirm that following a period of local public consultation and review, we have made the decision to proceed with the re-opening of the above Post Office at a new location: Mulkerns Spar at 1 Finegans Road, Jonesborough, Newry, BT35 8JB, where it will be operated by a retail partner.

We didn't receive any feedback from customers or local representatives during the local public consultation period. After careful consideration, we remain confident that the layout and location of the new branch will continue to meet customer needs and deliver an excellent service, whilst securing the long-term viability of Post Office services in the local community.

We recognise that the Post Office plays an important part in the lives of customers and we want to make our services as accessible as possible. Access is level with wide automatic doors at the entrance of Mulkerns Spar. Internally, there will be a hearing loop and space for a wheelchair.

Inside the proposed premises, the new branch will be built in line with Post Office specifications, making sure there is sufficient space for the new style local Post Office. We will be working closely with the Postmaster on the internal layout and some fixtures and fittings will be re-aligned or removed to make sure there is clear access into the premises. Aisles and the queuing area will be kept free from obstructions and adequate room will be provided for customers and a wheelchair to move around the shop and access Post Office services.

We recognise that the Post Office plays an important part in the lives of customers, particularly to older and disabled customers, and we want to make our services as accessible as possible. Internally, a new modern, style Post Office branch will be built to our high specifications, with a screened counter position and incorporating low-level facilities.

I am also pleased to let you know that the Post Office will continue to provide a wide range of products which will be available at the new branch and customers will still be able to transact manual banking, Royal Mail and Parcelforce International Services. Additionally cheques will continue to be accepted as a method of payment.

The local residents will also benefit from significantly longer opening hours, including Sunday opening. These new hours will allow customers to spread their visits and access our services seven days a week and at times that suit them better. Full details of the new branch are provided at the end of this letter together with a list of the products and services which will be available.

In order to maintain Post Office services to our customers in Jonesborough, your new-look Post Office branch is scheduled to open at the new premises on Thursday 23 July 2020 at 13:00. If there are any unforeseen schedule changes which mean these dates change, posters will be displayed in Mulkerns Spar to let customers know

This information is also available on the Post Office Consultation Hub at: postofficeviews.co.uk

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

Yours faithfully

Kenny Lamont

Kenny Lamont
Change Area Manager

postofficeviews.co.uk

comments@postoffice.co.uk

FREEPOST Your Comments

To get this information in a different format, for example, in larger print, audio or braille call 03457 22 33 44 or Textphone 03457 22 33 55.

Jonesborough Post Office information sheet**Address**

Mulkerns Spar
1 Finegans Road
Jonesborough
Newry
BT35 8JB

Opening hours

| | |
|-----|---------------|
| Mon | 07:00 – 22:00 |
| Tue | 07:00 – 22:00 |
| Wed | 07:00 – 22:00 |
| Thu | 07:00 – 22:00 |
| Fri | 07:00 – 22:00 |
| Sat | 07:00 – 22:00 |
| Sun | 07:00 – 22:00 |

Distance

Within 200 metres away from the previous branch, along level terrain.

Products & Services

A wide range of Post Office products and services will still be available.

Serving positions

There will be a screened Post Office serving position.

Accessibility**Access and facilities**

The Spar stores has double wide automatic doors and level access at the entrance.

Internally, there will be a hearing loop and space for a wheelchair.

Parking

There is a dedicated car park with designated marked disabled bays outside the Spar stores.

Retail

Convenience store

Date of move

Thursday 23 July 2020 at 13:00

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
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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.