



Dear Customer

Lanchester Post Office®
Lanchester News, 19 Front Street, Lanchester, Duram, DH7 0LA
Local public consultation

We are proposing, with the postmaster's agreement, to move the above Post Office branch to a new location - Spar Store, 4 Front Street, Lanchester, Durham, DH7 0ER. If the move goes ahead, subject to consultation, it will change to one of our new local style branches.

As you may be aware a previous consultation was carried out on this branch relocation in 2016 to the same premises. Since then, as a result of customer feedback, we have been working with the proposed new operator on the possibility of improving access.

The proposed new operator has undertaken extensive engagement with the local authority to raise the pavement at the entrance to the Spar store, unfortunately this has not been possible due to the potential utility mains pipe running underneath pavement which would need to be relocated. However we are pleased to advise a portable ramp will now be made available together with a bell and signage at the entrance to assist less able customers to summon assistance if required. As this is a change to our previous proposal we will now be undertaking a further period of consultation.

Why are we moving?

We're proposing this move as part of the ongoing modernisation of our branch network. Over the last five years we have transformed over 7,500 branches so more customers can access Post Office products and services in a modern and friendly environment, often over longer hours including Sundays. We are confident that introducing a local style branch alongside a successful retail store is the most effective way to safeguard sustainable Post Office services in the local community into the future.

Your new Post Office branch

Customers would access Post Office services at a low-screened, open-plan, modern serving point that's part of the retail counter. Working with the postmaster, we'd adapt the current store layout, fixtures and fittings to accommodate the Post Office till if needed. The branch will offer a wide range of Post Office products and services over longer opening hours, so customers can access their Post Office when it's convenient. Customer satisfaction with local style branches stands at 96 per cent, and nearly 20 per cent of local branch customer's visit outside traditional opening hours.

Consulting on the proposed new location

We're carrying out a local public consultation and we'd welcome your views on the proposal. We welcome feedback and comments that can help inform our plans, particularly on the following areas:

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

I've enclosed an information sheet that provides more details about the new location and the range of products that will be available. If you have any comments or questions, please email or write to me via our National Consultation team, whose contact details are below. Any information we receive will be considered as we finalise our plans for the new branch. If you are a local representative and others in your organisation are interested in the proposal, please feel free to let them know about it.

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 182313

postofficeviews.co.uk

Dates for local public consultation:

Local Public Consultation starts	26 July 2018
Local Public Consultation ends	13 September 2018
Proposed month of change	November/December 2018

In this instance we have extended public consultation by one week to allow for the summer holidays.

We are committed to engaging with and supporting our customers and their representatives as we make changes to the Post Office network. This consultation process 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. A copy is available at the end of this letter.

Thank you for considering our proposal. 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

Daniel Rooney

Daniel Rooney
Multiple Account Executive

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

Items sent by Freepost take 2 working days to arrive. Therefore, responses by Freepost should be sent in sufficient time to arrive before the end of the consultation period. Working days do not include Saturdays or Sundays. Responses received after the deadline will not be considered.

Lanchester Post Office information sheet							
	Current Post Office location				Proposed new Post Office branch location (subject to local public consultation)		
Address	Lanchester News 19 Front Street Lanchester Durham DH7 0LA				Spar Store 4 Front Street Lanchester Durham DH7 0ER		
Post Office opening hours		Mon	08:30 – 17:30			Mon	08:00 – 21:00
		Tue	08:30 – 17:30			Tue	08:00 – 21:00
		Wed	08:30 – 17:30			Wed	08:00 – 21:00
		Thu	08:30 – 17:30			Thu	08:00 – 21:00
		Fri	08:30 – 17:30			Fri	08:00 – 21:00
		Sat	09:00 – 12:30			Sat	08:00 – 21:00
		Sun	09:00 – 12:00			Sun	08:00 – 21:00
	Distance	40 metres away from the current branch, along level terrain.					
Accessibility & Accessibility works	Access and facilities The current branch has a wide door and a ramp at the entrance. Internally, there is a hearing loop and space for a wheelchair. Parking Roadside parking is available within 20 metres of the branch.				Access and facilities Currently there is a step at the entrance to the proposed premises, however a portable ramp will be made available together with a bell and signage at the entrance to assist less abled customers to summon assistance if required. Internally, there would be a hearing loop and space for a wheelchair Parking Roadside parking is available nearby. There is also a car park within 70 metres of the proposed premises.		
Retail	Newsagents				Convenience store		
Local Public Consultation starts	26 July 2018						
Local Public Consultation ends	13 September 2018						
Proposed month of change	November/December 2018						

To get this information in a different format, for example, in larger print, audio or braille please call 03452 66 01 15 or Textphone 03457 22 33 55.

Lanchester Post Office® services available

Our Customer Helpline on 03457 223344 will be happy to help you with any queries about product availability or provide you with details of maximum value of transactions. Customers can also shop online at www.postoffice.co.uk

	Current branch	New branch
Mail		
First & Second Class mail	✓	✓
Stamps, stamp books (1 st class 6 & 12 only, 2 nd 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. signed for & Airsure)	✓	✓
International parcels up to 2kg & printed papers up to 5kg	✓	✓
Parcelforce Worldwide International parcels	✓	✓
Articles for the blind (inland & international)	✓	✓
Royal Mail redirection service	✓	✓
Local Collect	✓	✓
Drop & Go	✓	✓
Withdrawals, deposits and payments		
Post Office Card Account	✓	✓
All personal and business banking cash withdrawals, deposits, balance enquiries & enveloped cheque deposits (card, barcoded or manual)	✓	✓
Postal orders	✓	✓
Moneygram	✓	✓
Change giving	✓	✓
Bill payments		
Bill payments (card, barcoded or manual)	✓	✓
Key recharging	✓	✓
Driving		
Car tax	✓	✓
Licences		
Rod fishing licences	✓	✓
Travel		
Pre-order travel money	✓	✓
On demand travel money	Euros/Dollars	Euros/Dollars
Travel insurance referral	x	✓
On demand travel insurance	✓	x
Passport Check & Send	✓	x
Mobile Top-ups & E vouchers	✓	✓
National Lottery Terminal	✓	x
Payment by cheque	✓	✓
Products marked x are available at Stanley Post Office, 92 Front Street, Stanley, DH9 0HU		
Opening times: Mon – Fri 09:00 – 17:30 Sat 09:00 – 15:00		

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
comments@postoffice.co.uk
FREEPOST Your Comments
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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.