



Dear customer

Local public consultation – Decision

**Longton Post Office
64 Liverpool Road, Longton, Preston, PR4 5PB**

I'm writing to confirm that following a period of local public consultation and review we have made the decision to proceed with the move of the above Post Office into Spar, 58-62 Liverpool Road, Longton, Preston, PR4 5PB.

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to let us have their comments and provide information. All the feedback we received helped us to better understand the views of customers and their representatives and this was taken into account, along with all other relevant factors, in making our decision. A summary of the feedback is enclosed along with an information sheet providing further details about the new branch.

After careful consideration of the feedback received, 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.

The current branch will close at 17:30 on Tuesday 5 October 2021, with the new branch opening, at Spar 58-62 Liverpool Road, at 08:30 on Friday 8 October 2021. If there are any unforeseen circumstances which mean these dates change, posters will be displayed in branch to let customers know.

During transfer of the branch customers requiring Post Office facilities may use any convenient Post Office service. Details of two alternative Post Office branches are provided below for your convenience:

- Walmer Bridge Post Office, 108 Liverpool Old Road, Walmer Bridge, Preston, PR4 5GE
- Penwortham Hill Post Office, 65 Liverpool Road, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 9XD

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. An extract relating to consultation is available at the end of this letter.

Yours faithfully

Kenny Lamont

**Kenny Lamont
Network Provision Manager**

comments@postoffice.co.uk

postofficeviews.co.uk

FREEPOST Your Comments

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.

Appendix A

Response to Local Public Consultation

Consultation started Friday 4 June 2021

Consultation ended Friday 16 July 2021

Consultation responses

- 18 responses from customers and local representatives

Key issues raised

- Address
- Social Distancing
- Distance
- Access and Internal Space

Response to issues raised

Address

We previously stated the proposed location address as Spar 58-60 Liverpool Road, PR4 5PB, however there has been a slight alteration to the address and the correct address is Spar 58-62 Liverpool Road, PR4 5PB. Please note the new location remains the same.

Social Distancing

The UK is currently experiencing a public health emergency as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic and as such, it is critical that we as a business take a range of measures to keep everyone safe. Please be assured that Post Office Ltd has been working hard to follow Government guidelines and we have supplied branches with the Personal Protective Equipment that they require to make branches a safe environment for their customers and staff. Post Office Ltd will continue to work safely during this pandemic, ensuring as many people as possible visiting our branches comply with social distancing guidelines.

Post Offices are designated an essential service, providing a unique service for a range of necessary activities and we are following the governments guidance on social distancing to support the safety of our staff and customers. As the situation changes we continue to update staff and customers with practical instructions to allow them to stay safe whilst serving the needs of their communities. We remain committed to providing essential services to our communities whilst keeping our colleagues and customers safe.

We're confident that our Postmasters and their staff are acting in accordance with the official advice and we're doing everything we can to keep our branches open and safe.

Distance

The new premises are located approximately 35 metres from the previous site. With any relocation it is inevitable that whilst some customers will have an easier journey to the new location, regrettably others will have further to travel. In terms of pedestrian access to the new location, there are well maintained pavements, with dropped kerbs along the route from the current site.

Access and Internal Space

Access at the new location will be level with a wide push button assisted door at the entrance via a ramp or steps with a handrail.

Internally the new branch will be in line with Post Office specifications, making sure there is sufficient space for the Post Office service to operate alongside the retail offer. We will be working closely with the operator 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, ensuring the entrance, aisles and the waiting area are kept free from obstructions and adequate room is provided for customers and a wheelchair to move around without difficulty.

Appendix B

Longton Post Office Information Sheet

Spar, 58-62 Liverpool Road, Longton, Preston, PR4 5PB

New opening hours

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Mon - Fri | 08:30 - 17:30 |
| Sat | 09:00 - 12:30 |
| Sun | Closed |

During the Coronavirus pandemic the branch 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

Products & Services

The same wide range of products and services will still be available.

Serving positions

There will be two serving positions in total; two Post Office serving points at the retail counter.

Access

Access will be level with a wide push button assisted door at the entrance via a ramp or steps with a handrail to the new premises.

Low level serving counters will be available.

Getting there

The new branch will be located approximately 35 metres away from the previous branch, along level terrain.

Roadside parking is available nearby.

Retail

Convenience store.

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

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 **Consult** where we are seeking feedback on proposals prior to a decision being made on the:

- Permanent closure of a Post Office branch¹
- 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-week² local public consultation, informing customers, locally elected representatives³, Consumer Advocacy Bodies and selected charities⁴ 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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FREEPOST Your Comments

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ Locally elected representatives include 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.

⁴ 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 3 and 4 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.