



Dear Customer

### **Branch Unplanned Closure**

#### **Newtown Post Office Heron Foods, 45 East View, Boldon Colliery, N35 9AU**

We are writing to inform you that, regrettably, following the resignation of our retail partner Heron Foods Ltd and the withdrawal of the premises for Post Office use, the above branch will be closing on Saturday 1 June 2024 at 16:00.

The provision of a Post Office service to our customers in the local community is important to us, and we will continue to work hard to restore services in the area as soon as possible. We would welcome any applications from potential retail partners interested in running a branch locally on our behalf. The vacancy is currently being advertised on our website [www.runapostoffice.co.uk](http://www.runapostoffice.co.uk) and applications will be carefully considered. If you are aware of any interested parties, please do share the link with them.

I would like to assure you that we are currently investigating the options available which will enable us to reinstate a Post Office service to the local community. In exploring this, it is important that any future service is sustainable for the person operating the service, and for Post Office Limited.

Future provision will reflect customer numbers and usage and we may take the opportunity to establish an alternative type of service. This may be a local style branch which runs alongside an established retail shop in newly refurbished premises and creates a more modern and convenient experience for customers.

If you have any questions you would like to raise about this matter, please write to me via the National Consultation Team at the address shown at the end of the letter. Please note that your comments will not be kept confidential unless you expressly ask us to do so by clearly marking them "In Confidence".

Any future changes to service provision would be handled in line with our Principles of Community Engagement. An extract relating to Notification is available at the end of this letter.

We will display posters in the branch to inform customers.

If you are a local representative, it would be helpful if you could share this information through your social media channels and 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 posters, please let us know.

We apologise for the inconvenience the closure may cause. We hope that our customers will continue to use Post Office services and details of alternative Post Office branches in the area are shown at the end of this letter. The latest available branch information can be found on our website, [www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder)

If you are a local representative, we will write to you again once we have any news about our plans for future service provision.

Yours faithfully

*Sarah Wileman*

**Sarah Wileman**  
**Partner Account Manager**

How to contact us:

comments@postoffice.co.uk  
postofficeviews.co.uk  
FREEPOST Your Comments

### Alternative branches

**There are times our branches 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](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder)

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#### West Boldon Post Office

Addison Road  
West Boldon  
East Boldon  
NE36 0RA

##### Opening times

Monday – Friday	09:00 – 15:00
Saturday	09:00 – 13:45
Sunday	Closed

#### Services

Offers the similar services, however excluding Vehicle Tax.

#### Access

This branch has a wide door and level access at the entrance.

#### Getting there

This Post Office service is located approximately 0.5 miles away from Newtown branch, along varied terrain. Roadside parking is available nearby. There is a frequent bus service available between Newtown branch and this Post Office service. The nearest bus stop is approximately 230 metres away.

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#### East Boldon Post Office

65 Front Street  
East Boldon  
NE36 0SB

##### Opening times

Monday – Sunday	08:00 – 19:00
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#### Services

Offers the similar services, with the addition of Euro and Dollar Travel Money however excluding On Demand Travel Insurance .

#### Access

This branch has a wide door and level access at the entrance.

#### Getting there

This Post Office service is located approximately 1.3 miles away from Newtown branch, along varied terrain. Roadside parking is available nearby. There is a frequent bus service available between Newtown branch and this Post Office service. The nearest bus stop is approximately 190 metres away.

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**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 (extract)**

A full version of this document is available on our Consultation Hub - [postofficeviews.co.uk](https://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 **Notify** - where we are informing customers of changes around:

- Opening hours
- Unplanned closure<sup>1</sup>/ planned service interruption
- Re-opening of a 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
- Franchising of a Directly Managed branch in its existing site where there are no changes to access to the Post Office serving point

We will display a poster in branch (or nearby if appropriate) to notify customers of the above changes, aiming to provide four weeks' notice. Four weeks' notice may not be possible for an unplanned change, and in these instances, we will provide notice as soon as we are able to. For closures we will include details of the nearest alternative Post Offices and our customer helpline/textphone.

We notify locally elected representatives including 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, selected charities, local Citizens Advice, Age UK, Northern Ireland's Disability Action and Northern Ireland's Rural Community Network. They are also encouraged to share all information additionally with local groups and organisations who they believe have an active interest in changes to their local Post Office.

**These Principles have been agreed with Citizens Advice, Consumer 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, Consumer 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](mailto:Comments@postoffice.co.uk)**

**FREEPOST Your Comments**

**Call: 03452 66 01 15**

**Textphone: 03457 22 33 55**

<sup>1</sup>Where the closure is unplanned, the service provision in the area will be reviewed based on current usage, modelling and availability of any suitable replacement or alternative service model. A commercial decision will be made if to actively seek to replace the closed service and will not be subject to public consultation.