



Dear Customer

Paulton Post Office®
The Radstock Co-operative Paulton, 4-5 Hill Court, Paulton, Bristol, BS39 7QG

Local public consultation decision

I'm writing to confirm that the branch above opened at the new location on 25 October 2019.

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. 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 is meeting customer needs and delivering an excellent service, whilst securing the long-term viability of Post Office services in the local community.

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

Sarah Cottrell

Sarah Cottrell
Retail Operations
Change Area Manager

postofficeviews.co.uk

comments@postoffice.co.uk

FREEPOST Your Comments

Appendix A

Response to Local Public Consultation

Consultation started 24 November 2019

Consultation ended 5 November 2019

Consultation responses

- 5 responses from customers and local representatives

Key issues raised

- Disabled parking
- Staff training
- Space within shop

Parking

Generally parking is a problem faced in many locations nationwide and I am sure you will understand the availability of parking spaces, including disabled, is outside the direct control of Post Office Limited. I can confirm that there are two car parks outside the new premises and both have one disabled parking space. However, to further help support our customers, we have discussed parking with the new operator and they are happy to approach the landlord to see if the landlord will consider providing additional designated disabled parking bay close by. I am therefore satisfied that parking is meeting the requirements of customers using the Post Office.

Staff training

Staff are fully trained in Post Office transactions with staffing levels aligned to meet customer demand.

Space within shop

Inside the new premises are in line with Post Office specifications, making sure there is sufficient space for the new style local Post Office to operate alongside the retail offer. We are working closely with the new operator on the internal layout and some fixtures and fittings have been re-aligned or removed to make sure there is clear access into the premises. Aisles are kept free from obstructions and adequate room provided for customers to queue and for a wheelchair to move around the shop and access Post Office services without difficulty.

Paulton Post Office information sheet				
	New Post Office location			
Address	The Radstock Co-operative Paulton 4-5 Hill Court Paulton Bristol BS39 7QG			
Post Office opening hours		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 – 12:30	
		Sun	Closed	
Distance	10 metres away from the previous branch, along level terrain.			
Products & Services	A wide range of products and services are available			
Serving positions	There is a Post Office serving point provided for use at the retail counter and available during shop opening hours.			
Accessibility	Access and facilities The new premises have wide doors and a level access at the entrance. Internally, there is a hearing loop and space for a wheelchair.			
	Parking There is a car park outside the new premises.			
Retail	Convenience store			
Date of opening	25 October 2019			

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.

Paulton Post Office® services available	
For information about product availability call 03457 223344 or to provide you with details of maximum value of transactions please speak to the operator. Customers can also shop online at www.postoffice.co.uk	
	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. Tracked & Signed)	✓
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	✓
Licences	
Rod fishing licences	✓
Travel	
Pre-order travel money	✓
On demand travel money	Euros
Travel insurance referral	✓
Mobile Top-ups & E vouchers	✓
Payment by cheque	✓
Other products are available at Midsomer Norton Post Office, 122b High Street, Midsomer Norton, Radstock, BA3 2HU.	
Opening times:	
Mon	09:00 – 18:00
Tue – Fri	09:00 – 17:30
Sat	09:00 – 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
comments@postoffice.co.uk
FREEPOST Your Comments
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Textphone: 03457 22 33 55

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.