



Dear Customer

**Branch Closure for Refurbishment**  
**Pluckley Post Office**  
**The Street, Ashford, TN27 0QS**

We are writing to inform you that due to extensive building work at the above location, the branch will need to close.

The safety of our customers is of paramount importance to us, therefore, to allow for the building work to take place, it will be necessary for the service to close on Saturday 02 November 2024 at 14:00.

It is envisaged that the work will take approximately two and a half weeks to complete, following which the service will re-open on Tuesday 19 November 2024 at 09:00.

The branches listed overleaf will be happy to provide customers with Post Office services during this period and this information will be made available locally. Should the dates change, posters will be displayed in branch to let customers know.

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 would like to apologise for the inconvenience the closure may cause. We hope that our customers will continue to use the Post Office and full details of alternative Post Office services in the area are shown at the end of this letter.

This notification is being carried out in line with our Principles of Community Engagement which have been agreed with Citizens Advice, Consumer Scotland and the General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland - the independent statutory consumer advocacy bodies. An extract relating to Notification is available at the end of this letter.

Yours faithfully

*Emily Clive*

**Emily Clive**  
**Area Change Manager**

How to contact us:

[comments@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:comments@postoffice.co.uk)  
[postofficeviews.co.uk](http://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, including additional alternatives Post Office services in the area, can be found on our website [www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder)

Hothfield Post Office		Services
32 The Street Hothfield Ashford TN26 1ES		Offers similar services, with the addition of Vehicle Tax.
Opening times		Access
Mon	09:00 – 13:00 14:00 – 17:30	This branch has a wide door and level access at the entrance.
Tue	09:00 – 13:00	
Wed-Fri	09:00 – 13:00 14:00 – 17:30	
Sat	09:30 – 12:30	
Sun	Closed	

### Getting there

This service is approximately 3.2 miles from Pluckley branch, along varied terrain. Roadside parking is available outside the premises. There is a bus service available between Pluckley branch and this Post Office service. The nearest bus stop is approximately 450 metres away.

Smarden Post Office		Services
Chessenden Lane Smarden Ashford TN27 8NF		Offers similar services, with the addition of Euro/dollar Travel Money.
Opening times		Access
Mon - Fri	09:00 – 12:30 13:00 – 16:30	This branch has a wide door and level access at the entrance.
Sat	09:00 – 12:30	
Sun	Closed	

### Getting there

This service is approximately 3.4 miles from Pluckley branch, along varied terrain. There is a car park directly outside the premises. There is a bus service available between Pluckley branch and this Post Office service. The nearest bus stop is approximately 55 metres away.

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 advocacy bodies.**

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 advocacy body (Citizens Advice, Consumer Scotland, or the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland) if you're not satisfied with our response. The consumer advocacy body 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.