



Dear Customer,

Branch Unplanned Closure

Portavogie Post Office

44 New Harbour Road, Portavogie, Newtownards, County Down, BT22 1EE

We have been trying to find a solution to maintain Post Office services to the Portavogie local community. Regrettably, there has not been any suitable options to provide a sustainable service going forward and consequently the postmaster has made the difficult decision to resign. Portavogie Post Office branch will therefore be closing on Wednesday 25 March 2026 at 17:30. We will continue to advertise the opportunity for a new operator to run a replacement service. Additionally, as a result of the postmaster resignation the outreach service he runs at Groomsport will also be closing Wednesday 25 March 2026.

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 possible 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.

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

Yours faithfully,

Janese Sung

Janese Sung
Area Change 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 their opening hours. The latest available branch information, including any additional possible alternative Post Office branches in the area, can be found on our website www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder

For additional information about product availability call 03457 223344.
For details of maximum value of transactions, please speak to the branch postmaster.

We sell Royal Mail and Parcelforce Worldwide services.
Postage services from other companies are also available in selected branches.

Cloughey Post Office	Services available				
Centra 2 The Square Cloughey Newtownards BT22 1HR	Offers similar services, however excluding Euro/Dollar Travel Money, Vehicle Tax, On Demand Travel Insurance.				
Opening times	Access				
<table border="1"><tr><td>Mon – Sat</td><td>09:00 – 18:00</td></tr><tr><td>Sun</td><td>Closed</td></tr></table>	Mon – Sat	09:00 – 18:00	Sun	Closed	Access is a step at the entrance to the premises.
Mon – Sat	09:00 – 18:00				
Sun	Closed				
Getting there					
Approximately 2.7 miles from Portavogie Post Office branch, along varied terrain. There is a customer Car park, with disabled bays, available outside the branch. There is a regular bus service between Portavogie Post Office and this branch with a bus stop approximately 110 metres of the branch.					

Kircubbin Post Office	Services available		
Eurospar 39A Cooks Brae Kircubbin Newtownards BT22 2SG	Offers similar services, however excluding Vehicle Tax, On Demand Travel Insurance.		
Opening times	Access		
<table border="1"><tr><td>Mon – Sun</td><td>08:00 – 20:00</td></tr></table>	Mon – Sun	08:00 – 20:00	Access is a step at the entrance to the premises.
Mon – Sun	08:00 – 20:00		
Getting there			
Approximately 4.6 miles from Portavogie Post Office branch, along varied terrain. There is a customer Car park, with disabled bays, available outside the branch. There are local buses serving the surrounding areas.			

Portaferry Post Office	Services available				
Costcutter 28 The Square Portaferry Newtownards BT22 1LR	Offers the same services.				
Opening times	Access				
<table border="1"><tr><td>Mon – Sat</td><td>08:00 – 19:00</td></tr><tr><td>Sun</td><td>08:30 – 14:30</td></tr></table>	Mon – Sat	08:00 – 19:00	Sun	08:30 – 14:30	Access is a ramp at the entrance to the premises.
Mon – Sat	08:00 – 19:00				
Sun	08:30 – 14:30				
Getting there					
Approximately 7.3 miles from Portavogie Post Office branch, along varied terrain. Roadside Parking is available nearby. There is a regular bus service between Portavogie Post Office and this branch with a bus stop approximately 98 metres of the branch.					

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

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 closure¹/ 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

FREEPOST Your Comments

Call: 03452 66 01 15

Textphone: 03457 22 33 55

¹Where 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.