

Dear Customer,



Branch Unplanned Closure

Shoplands Post Office The Co-operative Group, 1-3 Shoplands, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7RH

We are writing to inform you that, regrettably, following the resignation from our retail partner, the Co-operative Group, and the withdrawal of the premises for Post Office use, the above branch will be closing on Monday 22 July 2024 at 12:00.

The Post Office has undertaken a comprehensive review of the network to ensure that it continues to meet evolving customer needs in a very challenging economic climate. This review examined the network at a very detailed, local level, analysing customer demand and accessibility of Post Office products and services. Consequently, it has informed our plans for the Network as we work to ensure that, our funding and resources are allocated to deliver maximum benefit for all customers. At this time, therefore, we are not looking to replace Shoplands Post Office.

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

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

Yours faithfully

Signature

**Damien Haydock
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, including additional alternatives Post Office services in the area, can be found on our website www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder

Haldens Post Office		Services
80 Haldens Welwyn Garden City AL7 1DD		A range of products and services will be available, however excluding Euros and Dollars travel money.
Opening times		Access
Mon - Sat	06:00 – 17:30	This branch has a wide door and level access at the entrance.
Sun	07:00 – 12:00	
Getting there		
Approximately 0.9 miles from Shoplands Post Office branch, along varied terrain. Roadside parking is available nearby. There are local buses serving the surrounding area.		

Welwyn Garden City Post Office		Services
43 Howards Gate Welwyn Garden City AL8 6AP		The same range of products and services will be available with the addition of vehicle tax and a comprehensive range of travel money.
Opening times		Access
Mon – Sat	10:00 – 17:30	This branch has a wide automatic door and level access at the entrance.
Sun	11:00 – 15:00	
Getting there		
Approximately 1.2 miles from Shoplands Post Office branch, along varied terrain. Time restricted roadside parking and dedicated disabled parking is available nearby. There are local buses serving the surrounding area.		

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.