



Dear Customer,

Local public consultation – Decision

**Tain Post Office
27 High Street, Tain, IV19 1AE**

I'm writing to confirm that following a period of local public consultation and review, we have made the decision to proceed with the move of the above Post Office into Phone Store at 27 Lamington Street, Tain, IV19 1AA, where it will continue to operate as one of our local style branches.

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, in making our decision. 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 will continue to meet customer needs and deliver an excellent service, whilst securing the long-term viability of Post Office services in the local community.

The current branch will close at 17:00 on Tuesday 29 July 2025, with the new branch opening, at 27 Lamington Street, at 13:00 on Wednesday 30 July 2025. If there are any unforeseen circumstances which mean these dates change, posters will be displayed in branch to let customers know.

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. An extract relating to Consultation is available at the end of this letter.

Your faithfully

Kenny Lamont

**Kenny Lamont
Regional Change Manager
Post Office Limited**

How to contact us:

comments@postoffice.co.uk

postofficeviews.co.uk

FREEPOST Your Comments

**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.**

Appendix A

Response to Local Public Consultation

Consultation started 18 March 2025

Consultation ended 29 April 2025

Consultation responses

- 211 responses from customers and local representatives

Key issues raised

- Distance
- Retail Offer
- Access and Internal Space
- Security and Privacy
- Staff Training

Response to issues raised

Distance

The new premises are located approximately 140 metres from the previous site. With any relocation it is inevitable that whilst some customers will have an easier journey to the new location, regrettably others will have further to travel.

Retail Offer

Following public consultation feedback, including the sale of Vape products, the new postmaster has agreed to remove the advertising of Vapes externally from the Post Office side of the premises, once the Post Office has been incorporated. Additionally, he intends to expand his retail offering to compliment the Post Office with stationary and introduce a range of products that can be personalised.

Access and Internal Space

Access at the new location is via a ramp at the entrance, however, we are working with the newly appointed postmaster to provide improved ramp accessibility.

We will also be working closely with the new Postmaster on the internal layout and some fixtures and fittings will be re-aligned or removed to make sure there is clear access into the premises, ensuring the entrance, aisles and the waiting area are kept free from obstructions and adequate room is provided for customers and a wheelchair to move around without difficulty. Internally, the new branch will be in line with Post Office specifications, making sure there is sufficient space for the Post Office service to operate alongside the retail offer. The Post Office serving point will be at the new phone repair counter, opposite the current retail service area.

Security and Privacy

Although the local style format is a different way of offering Post Office services, it does not compromise the professional service standards that we provide at all of our branches. We will also be working closely with the new operator to make sure an appropriate level of privacy is provided for Post Office customers. For example, we discuss issues like queue layout and asking customers to stand back from the counter whilst they are waiting for service or handing a receipt that contains any financial information face down. Open plan working also lends itself to more discreet conversations as customers don't have to raise their voice to be heard.

Staff Training

The staff training approaches used are of the same high standard as those undertaken in all our branches. This includes respecting customer confidentiality and adhering to the stringent security procedures which will be put in place to protect staff and customers. Additionally, any staff that will handle Post Office transactions will also have completed compliance training for a number of areas, including Data Protection and Mail Handling.

Appendix B

Tain Post Office Information Summary

There are times our branches may need to make changes to their opening hours. The latest available branch information can be found on our website www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder

New Location																	
Phone Store, 27 Lamington Street, Tain, IV19 1AA																	
<table><tr><th colspan="2">New opening times</th></tr><tr><td>Monday</td><td>09:00 – 18:00</td></tr><tr><td>Tuesday</td><td>09:00 – 18:00</td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>09:00 – 18:00</td></tr><tr><td>Thursday</td><td>09:00 – 18:00</td></tr><tr><td>Friday</td><td>09:00 – 18:00</td></tr><tr><td>Saturday</td><td>09:00 – 18:00</td></tr><tr><td>Sunday</td><td>Closed</td></tr></table>		New opening times		Monday	09:00 – 18:00	Tuesday	09:00 – 18:00	Wednesday	09:00 – 18:00	Thursday	09:00 – 18:00	Friday	09:00 – 18:00	Saturday	09:00 – 18:00	Sunday	Closed
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Sunday	Closed																
Products and Services																	
The same range of products and services will still be available.																	
Serving positions																	
There will be a designated Post Office serving point.																	
Access																	
The new premises will have ramp at the entrance. Internally, there will be a hearing loop and space for a wheelchair.																	
Getting there																	
The new premises will be located approximately 140 metres away from the current branch. Roadside parking is available nearby and King Street Car park is approximately 180 metres away with designated disabled parking.																	
Store retail available	Phone Store/Convenience.																

Services available	Current Branch	New Branch
Everyday Personal & Business Banking		
Cash Withdrawals	✓	✓
Cash Deposits	✓	✓
Cheque Deposits	✓	✓
Mails		
Drop & Go	✓	✓
Parcelforce Express Services	✓	✓
Pay Bills & Top Up		
Pay Bills & Top-up	✓	✓
Driving		
Vehicle Tax	✓	✓
Travel		
Foreign Currency	Euros/Dollars	Euros/Dollars
Travel Money Card	✓	✓
Your Finances		
Western Union	✓	✓

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 **Consult** - where we are seeking feedback on proposals prior to a decision being made on the:

- Permanent closure of a Post Office branch⁵
- 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-week⁶ 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, 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

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Textphone: 03457 22 33 55

FREEPOST Your Comments

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.