



Dear Customer

Local public consultation - Have your say

Walker Post Office
9 Church Walk Centre, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE6 3DP

We are proposing to move the above Post Office branch to a new location - Unit 51, Church Walk House, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE6 3DJ, and subject to consultation the branch would continue to operate as one of our modern main style branches.

Why are proposing this move?

The area in which the current branch is located is being redeveloped and the branch would no longer be available for Post Office use. We have therefore had to identify an alternative location to continue to offer Post Office services to the local community.

We are pleased to advise that Newcastle City Council has identified a new premises to move this branch, within the same estate. The proposed premises which are currently empty, would shortly undergo a full refurbishment to incorporate a Newsagents and Walker Post Office, offering the same range of Post Office products and services over longer opening hours.

Our priority is to safeguard Post Office services to the local community in the longer term and the relocation of Walker Post Office will enable us to maintain a Post Office service to our customers in the local community.

We'd like your help

We're now starting a period of local public consultation and your feedback is important to us as it will help to inform our decision. For more details of the proposed services and accessibility, please see the branch information summary later in this consultation document.

What exactly are we consulting on?

We'd welcome your comments on the following areas:

- **How easy is it to get to the proposed location?**
- **Are the proposed premises easy for you to get into and are they easily accessible once inside?**
- **Are there any other local community issues which you believe could be affected by or affect the proposed Post Office move?**
- **If the move were to proceed is there anything we could do to make it easier for customers?**

Local Public Consultation starts	Wednesday 8 June 2022
Local Public Consultation ends	Wednesday 20 July 2022
Proposed month of change	August/September 2022

An information sheet is enclosed that provides more details about your proposed new branch. You can share your views on the proposed change through our easy and convenient online questionnaire via postofficeviews.co.uk. When entering the website, you can use the search function to find the consultation for this branch either by branch name, postcode or the unique branch code **368329**

How to share your views:

Consultation Hub (postofficeviews.co.uk)

comments@postoffice.co.uk

Call: 03452 66 01 15

Textphone: 03457 22 33 55

FREEPOST Your Comments – N.B. This is the full postal address. Items sent by Freepost take 2 working days, please allow enough time for responses to be received.

**Want to tell us what you think right here and now?
Scan here.**

If you don't have a QR code scanner on your phone, you can find one in your app store.



Good to know

- Customers would access Post Office services in a modern, open-plan environment alongside the postmaster's retail.
- Working with the postmaster, we'd adapt the current premises layout, fixtures and fittings to accommodate the Post Office. It would be in a dedicated area within the new premises with one screened position.
- We'd also add a low-screened, modern Post Office till at the retail counter offering the same range of Post Office products and services over longer opening hours, so customers can access their Post Office when it's convenient. Customer satisfaction with this style of branch is high.
- All staff employed to work in the new branch would be trained to the highest standards with on-going training on products and services, as well as operational and service-related matters.
- Posters and leaflets will now be displayed in branch to let customers know about the proposal and to ask their views
- Any information we receive will be carefully considered as we finalise our plans.
- If you are a local representative, we will write to you again at the end of the consultation to respond to the main issues raised and to explain our final plans for the branch.
- This consultation is being carried out in line with our Principles of Community Engagement which have been agreed with Citizens Advice, Citizens Advice Scotland and the General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland - the independent statutory consumer watchdogs. An extract relating to consultation is available at the end of this letter.

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 the changes we are proposing to Walker Post Office. If you would like a supply of posters, please let us know. Our contact details can be found at the top of this page.

Thank you for considering our proposal.

Yours faithfully

Kenny Lamont

**Kenny Lamont
Network Provision Manager
Post Office Limited**

Walker Post Office Information Summary

Current Location		Proposed New Location	
9 Church Walk Centre Newcastle Upon Tyne NE6 3DP		Unit 51 Church Walk House Newcastle Upon Tyne NE6 3DJ	
Current opening hours		Proposed new opening hours	
Mon	08:00 – 17:00	Mon - Fri	08:00 - 17:00
Tues	08:00 – 13:00 & 14:00 – 17:00	Sat	08:00 - 12:30
Wed	08:00 – 17:00	Sun	Closed
Thu	08:00 – 17:00		
Fri	08:00 – 13:00 & 14:00 – 17:00		
Sat	08:00 – 12:30		
Sun	Closed		

During the Coronavirus pandemic the branch may need to make changes to its opening hours. The latest available branch information can be found on our website www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder

Products & Services

The same range of products and services would continue to be available.

The current branch has an external Post Office branded cash machine, which would be relocated to the proposed premises.

Serving positions

There would be two serving positions in total; one screened and a Post Office serving point at the retail counter.

Access

The proposed premises would have a wide door and level access at the entrance. Internally, there would be a hearing loop, a low-level writing desk, a low-level serving counter and space for a wheelchair.

Getting there

The proposed branch would be located approximately 90 metres away from the current branch, along mostly level terrain.

Parking is available outside the shopping parade with designated disabled bays.

Retail

Newsagents.

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

- Permanent closure of a Post Office branch¹
- 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-week² local public consultation, informing customers, locally elected representatives³, Consumer Advocacy Bodies and selected charities⁴ 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.

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FREEPOST Your Comments Call:

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ Locally elected representatives include 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.

⁴ 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 3 and 4 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.