



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Kelly Tolhurst MP
Minister for Small Business,
Consumers and Corporate Responsibility
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

14/11/2018

Dear Minister.

Downgrading and Potential Closure of Post Offices in my Constituency

I write with reference to our national network of crown and sub post offices. My concerns exist on both national and local levels.

Nationally, I am concerned at the 'franchising' of 74 Crown post offices to WHSmith. I am told that if these go ahead, 60% of the Crown Network that existed in 2013 will have disappeared, following years of incremental privatization. I believe that if our large and busy Crown post office in Reading is franchised to WHSmith, my constituents will be subjected to; longer queuing times, sub-standard service, reduced services, inferior advice and reduced disabled access.

In addition, I would like to draw your attention to the planned closure of the sub post office currently based at 30 Church Street, Caversham, Reading. This is currently co-located with a pharmacy which has taken the decision to close, thereby throwing the sub post office, those working there and their many customers into a state of insecurity. However, the Post Office has indicated that it wants to find a new location for a sub post office in Caversham. I would be grateful for your help with this issue and wondered whether you would meet me and local residents to discuss this further?

Thank you, in advance for your help with these issues,

Yours sincerely.

Matt Rodda MP