

# My letter to the Post Office Ltd regarding their proposal to move the Wokingham Post Office to commercial premises

I have written to the Post Office regarding their proposal to move the Wokingham Post Office to commercial premises citing my reservations about the move. They are currently running a consultation and I would encourage residents to contribute to the consultation to make their views known. You can find the consultation at: <https://www.postofficeviews.co.uk/national-consultation-team/wokingham-rg40-1aa-008939/>.

I, along with Wokingham Councillors, will be meeting with Mr Gale next month.



THE RT HON JOHN REDWOOD MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Roger Gale  
Network & Sales Director  
Post Office Limited  
Finsbury Dials  
20 Finsbury Street  
London  
EC2Y 9AQ

17 January 2019

Dear Mr Gale

Thank you for your letter concerning the Post Office in Wokingham. You do not explain why you think there needs to be a new retail partner and why these important local services have to be absorbed into a different kind of shop. People are used to the range of services the Post Office offers, and to the location of their main Post Office on Broad Street. It would be possible to improve the internal configuration of this property, by adding more counters and using the full width of the building for customer service. It also has the advantage of keeping collection of undelivered items in the same location as an important part of the modern postal service.

As you should know the Wokingham area is expanding rapidly with the construction of new homes. The current counters of the Post Office are insufficient often leading to delays and queues. Cutting back to just three positions at the rear of the WH Smith store is going to make this problem worse, when you should be planning for expansion.

Placing the Post office at the back of the WH Smith store makes it more difficult for people to get access, requiring them to get past shoppers browsing between the Smith displays and avoiding the till queues which are also a feature of WH Smith at busy times of day. It will be particularly difficult for people with pushchairs, wheelchairs and walking frames. The only gain for customers is the longer week-end opening hours which could be accommodated at your existing premises.

Yours sincerely