

# Letter from Barclays regarding bank closure in Wokingham

I have received the e-mail below in response to my comments regarding the closure of Barclays Bank in Wokingham later this summer. I would be interested in hearing the views of my constituents who will be affected by the closure.

Dear Sir John Redwood,

Thank you for your email regarding the closure of our Wokingham branch.

I want to reassure you that we know face-to-face banking continues to play an important role for some of our customers in Wokingham, and following the branch closure we are seeking to provide a continued presence in the community via a new alternative physical touchpoint, either at a local retail outlet or via a local community space. This is aimed at providing dedicated in person colleague support for customers with complex financial needs and non-transactional services, without the need for travel. We are progressing the local arrangements as we speak and we will of course let you and our customers know more details once finalised.

Turning to shared banking hubs, as a result of the new arrangements announced by Cash Access UK (formerly the Cash Action Group), LINK (the organisation that oversees the ATM network) undertakes an independent review of each community to be impacted by banking service closures to assess their cash needs. Following that review, LINK has the autonomy to commission new cash services, which could be an ATM, enhancements to local Post Office facilities or a Bank Hub, if an unmet need is identified. To confirm no additional access to cash facility needs have been identified following Barclays Wokingham branch closure and the removal of the ATM. As outlined below, the nearest free-to-use ATMs are located at Lloyds and HSBC, Market Place, Wokingham.

More broadly, we continue to work with Cash Access UK on shared solutions with our peers, as we continue to collaborate on innovative and sustainable solutions for customers to bank in different ways or lack confidence in a digital world. In addition, communities are able to request a review from LINK should they feel they have an unaddressed problem with access to cash <https://www.link.co.uk/consumers/request-access-to-cash/access-to-cash-in-your-area/>.

Finally, we would encourage any of our customers with concerns to talk to colleagues at the Barclays Wokingham branch, or if you are contacted and able to pass on their details, I will organise for one of my colleagues to reach out directly.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help further and I am of course very happy to arrange a call with Liz Smith, Barclays Customer Care Director,

to discuss this in more detail. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kind regards,

Julia Husband

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## [My interview with Times Radio](#)

Please find below my interview with Times Radio where we discussed the need for tighter controls on immigration and a focus on economic growth.

You can find it between 2:10:06-2:16:47.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/radio/show/20230516-16757/2023-05-16>

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## [Taxpayers to pay for carbon capture and storage](#)

I now have a letter following my question to the Minister. This confirms that taxpayers will put up £20bn, there will be a new tax added, and levies on customer bills. Will all our competitors do the same? The problem with this “investment” is it entails doing something no-one wants to pay for. It needs more taxes to deliver. It will help make the UK less competitive, speeding the transfer of jobs in energy intensive areas to other countries.

Dear John,

Thank you for your question in the House of Commons on 30 March, and for your written

questions tabled on 14 April, regarding the source of the recently announced £20 billion

in Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS) funding.

In the Spring Budget the Chancellor announced £20 billion in funding to store carbon and

create jobs through Track-1 CCUS clusters and beyond. This is an unprecedented

investment in the early development of CCUS to help meet the Government's climate

commitments.

The announced funding will come from levy and Exchequer sources. We expect it to

crowd-in billions of pounds of additional private capital, creating jobs and bringing investment to our industrial heartlands. The Government will use Exchequer funding to support industrial carbon capture business models and the Carbon Capture and Storage Infrastructure Fund (CIF). A dispatchable power agreement for power generation with CCUS will be funded through consumer levies. Support for CCUS-enabled hydrogen projects will be funded by a new hydrogen levy on energy bills, subject to consultation and legislation. As currently proposed, the Revenue Support Agreement (RSA) for transport and storage will use both taxpayer and consumer funding. Thank you again for your questions.

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## [My appearance on the Today Programme, BBC Radio 4](#)

Please find below the link to my interview with Justin Webb of BBC Radio 4. We discussed the need for tighter control on immigration, given that the Centre for Policy Studies today announced that net migration for this year is expected to surpass 700,000.

You can find it between 1:36:07-1:41-21.

[Today – 15/05/2023 – BBC Sounds](#)

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## [Which EU laws to repeal?](#)

Apparently people want me to go over this again. Here's a few of the proposals I have put to government

1 Legislate to remove the NI Protocol by resuming the Bill in The Lords which passed the Commons with a majority of 71. That will remove EU laws from NI.

2. Abolish VAT on domestic fuel

3 Abolish permanently VAT on green products

#### 4 Repeal The Ports Directive

5. Replace product specifications with a strong general duty on product safety and a merchandise quality rule
6. Suspend the emissions trading and carbon tax scheme which makes the UK very uncompetitive leading to more imports of energy intensive goods with no CO<sub>2</sub> savings
7. Remove the ban on making petrol and diesel cars after 2030
8. Change rules and taxes governing UK auction houses to match New York, removing EU imposed charges and taxes which lost us market share
9. Amend General Data Protection Regulation to cut costs and bureaucracy to small charities and businesses whilst keeping suitable protections for individuals
10. Change fishing regulations to give priority to UK vessels and landings in UK ports

Some of the ones from the Duncan Smith report:

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  - 1.5. Use digital sandboxes to test innovations more quickly and ensure regulation is based on evidence of impact.
  - 1.7. Give regulators statutory objectives to promote competition and innovation in the markets they regulate.
  - 1.8. Delegate greater flexibility to regulators to put the principles of agile regulation into practice, allowing more to be done through decisions, guidance and rules rather than legislation.
  - 1.14. Set a UK standards strategy to promote the use of British standards internationally as a way to boost UK influence and promote trade and exports.

#### SECTOR PROPOSALS

##### UK START-UP AND SCALE-UP FINANCE

3. Amend the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS) and the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) to maximise Private Equity and Venture Capital investment in growth industries.
  - 3.1. Amend the age eligibility requirements for companies to access investment through EIS and SEIS to ensure businesses outside London and the south east benefit equally.
  - 3.2. Increase the maximum level of SEIS investment.
  - 3.3. Commit to the continuation of EIS beyond 2025.

##### DATA

7. Replace the UK General Data Protection Regulation 2018 with a new, more proportionate, UK Framework of Citizen Data Rights to give people greater control of their data while allowing it to flow more freely and drive growth across healthcare, public services and the digital economy.

- 7.1. Reform GDPR to give people meaningful control of their data.
- 7.2. Reform GDPR for artificial intelligence, including by removing Article 22 of GDPR and focussing instead on the legitimacy of automated decision-making.
- 11.6. Streamline clinical trial set up by HRA adopting automated AI or digital processing of ethical and trials approvals.
- 11.7. The MHRA and HRA should accelerate the adoption of novel clinical trial processes through better digitising of trials applications and data and use of novel models like UK Trials Acceleration Programme (TAP) and IMPACT with the capacity to deliver registration level trials.
- 11.8. Replace the Caldicott data guardians with a HRA Single Data Controller "One-stop shop"™ for Health Research Information Governance with harmonised committees to reduce bureaucracy and standardise processes.
- 11.9. Establish a centralised health dataspine, where all data is stored for ease of access by approved users across the health network, with standardised format and approval routes for data collection and curation.
- 11.11. Accelerate Access to innovation by establishing clear digital framework for Conditional Approvals and Adaptive Licensing of new therapies like gene therapies based on data including from the new Electronic Patient Recorded Outcomes Measure (EPROMs) dataspine.
- 11.12. Expand the MHRA remit and Innovation Team to include promotion of UK leadership in innovative trial design, new accelerated access regulatory pathways, standardising format and approval routes for data collecting, curating and collation, and use of novel clinical and digital biomarkers and AI.
- 11.14. MHRA to work with stakeholders to establish a UK Regulatory Innovation Hub on the same model as the US Centers of Excellence in Regulatory Science<sup>14</sup>. MHRA to work with stakeholders to establish a UK Regulatory Innovation Hub and Innovation (CERSIs).
- 11.15. Regulation of medical cannabinoids and medicinal CBD should move from the Home Office to DHSC / MHRA to create a regulatory pathway for assessment and approval based on patient benefit.

#### AGRI-ENVIRONMENT

13. Replace EU rules with an integrated agri-environment framework which better supports the development of more environmentally sustainable agriculture, with more proportionate and evidence-based, outcomes-focussed regulation...
- 13.6. Deliver a common-sense solution to transitioning chemical registrations from EU to the UK REACH.
- 13.10. Remove burdensome EU regulation on the animal feed industry, whilst maintaining rigorous safety standards.

#### AGRICULTURAL GENOMICS

14. The UK Government should actively support research into and commercial adoption by UK farmers and growers of gene edited crops, particularly those which help the transition away from agrochemicals to naturally occurring biological resilience.

14.1. Interpret current GM rules on a case-by-case basis, to permit specific crops

with proven benefits and which are consistent with the UK's rigorous standards on food safety and environmental protection.

#### SPACE AND SATELLITES

15. Through reform of the Space Industry Act, the Government should address the

indemnity and liability issues currently holding back investor confidence in the

UK as a satellite launch and operations hub.

15.1. Amend the Space Industry Act 2018 to cap liability and indemnity requirements for licence applicants to launch and operate satellites from the UK.

(E0) data regulatory policy framework.

#### NUTRACEUTICALS

##### OTHER TARGETED REFORMS

17.1. Amend the Weights and Measures Act 1985 to allow traders to use imperial

measurements without the equivalent metric measurement.

17.2. Develop an optional e-labelling system for devices with screens or that can be

connected to a screen, to display compliance information.

17.3. Repeal the Port Services Regulation 2019 (SI 2019 No. 575) to remove unnecessary, EU-derived regulatory burdens on UK ports.

17.4. Liberalise parallel import laws to reduce prices and increase choice for

consumers.

17.5. Urgently review guidance on hand sanitisers so that tested, effective non-alcohol based sanitisers can be used