



Ms Laura Tarling - External Affairs Manager,
Post Office,
By Email

30 June 2023

URGENT

Re: Post Offices in Aberconwy

Office of Janet Finch-Saunders MS
29 Madoc Street,
Llandudno,
LL30 2TL.
01492 871 198
The Welsh Parliament,
Cardiff Bay,
CF99 1NA.
0300 200 7245
Janet.Finch-Saunders@senedd.wales

Dear External Affairs Manager, Ms Tarling,

I am writing with regards to my serious concerns about the future of post offices in Aberconwy.

Having spoken to several constituents and individuals working in the sector, I am aware that post offices in the constituency are facing a series of challenges which could ultimately result in at least some closures.

Matters which I believe are having a detrimental impact on the viability of some local post offices are the:

- contract change which means that there is no salary for postmasters;
- transition to paying vehicle tax online (one store has seen a drop from 250 to 6);
- collapse in the number of people collecting pensions in person (one store only has 6 residents collecting pensions);
- Royal Mail potentially undermining stores by encouraging customers to buy postage online.

In relation to the Royal Mail, I have sent Mr David Gold, Director of Public Affairs & Policy, an urgent letter asking him to consider reviewing their marketing strategy, and actually encouraging customers to buy their postage in post offices.

I would be grateful to receive your thoughts on the points raised above, and details as to what steps the Post Office is considering taking to help local stores in Aberconwy continue to operate.

Yours sincerely,

Janet

Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS