

No. 105/25

27th May 2025

Dear Colleague

Post Office: Future of the Crown Office Network – Franchising Update

Further to LTB 069/25. As Branches are aware, on 8th April Post Office announced the franchising of the remaining 108 Crown Offices, meaning the loss of over 1,000 jobs.

Post Office has today confirmed franchise partners for 56 Crowns and the members concerned were informed via a Teams call earlier this morning. The three franchise partners announced today are RF Retail Ltd, Universal Office Equipment (UK) Ltd (known as UOE) and ZCO Ltd. The 90-day “*staff information and consultation exercise*” begins today and closes on 24th August. We are expecting further announcements in terms of franchise partners for the remaining Crowns in the coming weeks.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Union is opposed to franchising Crown Offices as we believe this will provide an inferior service, there is obviously a requirement to enter into serious negotiations with the aim of agreeing the “**measures**” associated with potential TUPE and also an improved compensation package via a Settlement Agreement. Additionally, we need to agree processes for bumping opportunities elsewhere in Post Office. We have therefore agreed the following Joint Statement:

On 8th April Post Office announced to employees their intention to franchise all remaining Directly Managed Branches.

For its part, the CWU does not support the franchising of Directly Managed Branches.

*Both parties recognise that although they hold different positions on **the future of DMB's and the Post Office Network** – there is a need to enter without prejudice negotiations immediately to explore the potential for an agreement that will support and maximise the available options for CWU members/Post Office employees.*

The CWU notes that Post Office will announce the start of a 90-day consultation on Tuesday 27th May.

The list of **Crowns affected by today's announcement is attached** for your information and has been shared with our Territorial Reps, who were present on **today's calls**.

We have serious reservations about the longevity of the service being provided by these franchise partners as there is no guarantee these businesses will not be vulnerable to closure in the future. In fact, we have already seen examples whereby Crowns previously franchised to WH Smith have now closed.

We will continue to campaign politically against the franchising programme and Branches should liaise with our Post Office Territorial Representatives who can provide help and support for engaging with MPs and councils etc.

Further developments will be reported as negotiations progress.

Yours sincerely,

Dave Ward
General Secretary

Martin Walsh
DGS(P)

Andy Furey
Assistant Secretary



Crown Office	Postcode	Franchise Partner
Bransholme	HU7 4JF	RF Retail
Bridlington	YO15 2AA	RF Retail
Chester-Le-Street	DH3 3AA	RF Retail
Crossgates	LS15 8QS	RF Retail
Grimsby	DN31 1AA	RF Retail
Morley	LS27 8TB	RF Retail
South Shields	NE33 1HT	RF Retail
Sunderland City	SR1 1RR	RF Retail
Baker Street	W1U 6SG	UOE
Barnet	EN5 5UU	UOE
Brixton	SW9 8FR	UOE
Cambridge City	CB2 3BZ	UOE
Golders Green	NW11 8RT	UOE
Hampstead	NW3 1QL	UOE
Harlesden	NW10 4RU	UOE
Harold Hill	RM3 8EJ	UOE
High Holborn	WC1V 7RL	UOE
Houndsditch	E1 7BS	UOE
Islington	N1 1US	UOE
Kennington Park	SE11 4QA	UOE
Kilburn	NW6 6JG	UOE
Kingsbury	NW9 9DU	UOE
Kingsland High Street	E8 2NX	UOE
Knightsbridge	SW7 1DL	UOE
Leighton Buzzard	LU7 1AA	UOE
London Bridge	SE1 9SF	UOE
Lower Edmonton	N9 0TX	UOE
Milton Keynes	MK9 3QA	UOE
Mount Pleasant	EC1R 4SQ	UOE
Northolt	UB5 5AA	UOE
Oxford	OX1 1ZZ	UOE
Paddington Quay	W2 1JX	UOE
Raynes Park	SW20 0LL	UOE
Roman Road	E2 0RX	UOE
St Peters Street	AL1 3AA	UOE
Stamford Hill	N16 6TW	UOE
Wealdstone	HA3 5QL	UOE
Windsor	SL4 1AA	UOE
Bexhill-On-Sea	TN40 1AA	Zco
Canning Town	E16 1HF	Zco
Cricklewood	NW2 3HR	Zco
Dereham	NR19 2AA	Zco
Edinburgh City	EH1 1BQ	Zco
Furness House	LA14 1LE	Zco
Glasgow	G1 2RD	Zco
Haddington	EH41 3UU	Zco
Kendal	LA9 4AA	Zco

Kettering	NN16 8AA	Zco
Matlock	DE4 3AA	Zco
Melville Road	BN3 1UB	Zco
Morecambe	LA4 4AA	Zco
Poulton-Le-Fylde	FY6 7BB	Zco
Rotherham	S60 1PJ	Zco
Saltcoats	KA21 5EX	Zco
South Ockendon	RM15 5EB	Zco
Springburn Way	G21 1BU	Zco