March 2008

Dear Constituent,

I wanted to write to let you know how strongly I am apposed to the latest round of post office closures.

The plans to close another three post offices in this constituency beggar belief - particularly as using alternative branches isn't a realistic option for most people. Since the Haverstock Hill sub-post office was closed, the offices at both Hampstead Village and Finchley Road have seen increased queues and decreased services, with customers already having to wait far too long to be served.

These closures will really affect the most vulnerable people in our community; the elderly, the disabled and families with small children, all of whom rely on being able to get to a local post office easily. Shutting these will also disadvantage other small businesses and shops in the area.

Labour Mayor Ken Livingstone is considering mounting a legal challenge to the Post Office's consultation. Together with Labour Deputy Mayor Nicky Gavron, I will fight to oppose all the proposed local closures. I'll also be asking the Lib Dem / Tory - run Camden Council why they aren't doing more to support local post offices. Saving local post offices isn't even mentioned in Camden Council's Community Strategy. I want to know why.

I believe there are more creative ways of saving post offices by increasing their functions so that they could be paid as Council information points, or by creating innovative partnerships which could see some post offices opening in libraries. Moreover, council payments, and child trust funds could be put through post offices to increase their turnover and services to the public. Westminster Council have announced they are looking into some of these options in order to minimize the financial losses incurred by post offices. I would like to see Camden Council also being more proactive to prevent post office closures.

The Post Office are currently holding a consultation on this issue, so we have only four short weeks left to make our views heard. As your MP, I would like to know your views on this very important matter, and any responses I receive I will pass on to Royal Mail so that your comments get directly to the people making the decisions. As such, **I would urge you to fill out the response form overleaf, and return it to our address as soon as possible.**

Yours Sincerely,

Glenda Jackson.

GLENDA JACKSON MP

Glenda Jackson MP
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Working Hard for Hampstead and Highgate

Glenda Jackson MP

Post Office Survey

Please Return to: Glenda Jackson MP, House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

I am completely against the planned closure of the three post offices in our constituency, and I would like to know what you think about this very important issue.

First Name:		**Email:**	
Surname:		**Address:**	
Tel (home):			
First (mob):		**Post Code:**	

1. Are you opposed to the closure of local post offices? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know

2. Should Camden Council do more to support the local post offices? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know

3. Is Mayor Ken Livingstone right to mount a legal challenge to the Post Office? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know

4. Would you like to use the local post office for a wider range of services, like paying council bills or parking fines? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know

5. Would you like to find out more about Council services and what's happening in your area at local post offices? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

6. Do you think that the Post Office should receive greater public subsidy? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know

7. How easy will you find it to use Finchley Road Post Office, given no alternative? ☐ Easy ☐ Difficult ☐ Very Difficult

8. How easy will you find it to use Hampstead Village Post Office, given no alternative? ☐ Easy ☐ Difficult ☐ Very Difficult

9. How often do you use your local post office? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly

10. When you use your local post office, how often do you visit the local shops and businesses? ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly

11. Which political party do you most closely identify with? ☐ Labour ☐ Lib Dem ☐ Conservatives

12. Would you like a postal vote? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know

13. Are there any other issues that you would like me to focus on?

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Your Comments

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