GLENDA JACKSON MP
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Ms. Sally Hopkins,
Senior Extrenal Relations Manager,
Group Corporate and Government Affairs,
Post Office Ltd,
1st Floor, 148 Old Street,
London, EC1V 9HQ.

19th February 2008

Dear Ms. Hopkins,

I am writing to outline my opposition to the planned closure of three Post Offices in my constituency; England's Lane Post Office, Hampstead Heath Post Office, and Highgate High Street Post Office.

Firstly, I do not consider that the alternative branch options are realistic.

The Hampstead Village Post Office is a considerable distance away, involving a very steep hill for most of the journey. It is not a practical proposition for anyone to walk there, especially given the elderly demographic in the area, and the fact that there is no linking bus route. Moreover, parking in Hampstead Village is very difficult, and there are very rarely spaces to be had.

Finchley Road Post Office is also a considerable distance away. Parking there is equally difficult, and it is not a practical proposition to walk to Finchley Road for many of my constituents. Moreover, since the branch was franchised, the queues at the branch are extremely long, and customers already have to wait far too long to be served.

I do not think that it is acceptable that Belsize should loose all three of its post offices in the space of two years. Only a few months ago, I was assured that Royal Mail were still committed to finding suitable premises for a Post Office on Haverstock Hill, and were actively pursuing any possible venue.

The closure of the Haverstock Hill Post Office has had a considerable impact on not only the residents, but businesses in this area, and has clearly exacerbated queues and led to an inadequate service for existing customers at the Hampstead Village and Finchley Road Post Offices. How these branches will cope with additional customers, should the three planned closures go ahead, is difficult to comprehend.

I would therefore urge you, even at this late stage, to reconsider your plans for closure.

Yours sincerely,

Glenda Jackson.

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