

WHEN WILL IT END?

Aberystwyth

Banbury

Beckenham

Beeston

Bognor Regis

Bromsgrove

Bury St Edmunds

Cirencester Town

Crouch End

Denbigh

Durham

Felixstowe

Halifax

Harborne

Harlow

Harpenden

Hartlepool

Headingley

Honiton

Kilmarnock

Dear Member,

In the Name of Profit – 42 Crowns Announced for Franchising or Closure

Firstly, I appreciate that members in the impacted Crown Offices will be experiencing a rollercoaster of emotions. Initially, I'm sure members will be shocked and dismayed by the callousness of the Post Office's actions and you will undoubtedly feel let down. Let's turn these emotions to anger against the Post Office and fight back.

For members in the Crowns who will be relieved they are not included on the franchising list as part of the list of 42, I would say to you, if the Post Office continues to systematically dismantle the Crown Office Network, then it is only a matter of time before further Crowns are announced for franchising. Indeed, the Post Office in its communications on Tuesday did its very best to conceal the fact that lurking behind the initial tranche of 39 franchises is a plan for further franchising of up to 50 Crown Offices. This is not scaremongering – this is a fact.

They are Coming for More – Another 40-50 Crowns are Threatened with Franchising

The Post Office, in a presentation to the Union on Thursday 14th January clearly stated 40-50 branches ***“may need to be released in future tranches over the next 2 years unless significant opportunities can be found to make them profitable.”***

The Post Office has once again moved the goalposts! The last round of franchising was specifically designed to make the Crown Network financially sustainable by getting to break-even. The Post Office claimed at the time that the pain associated with the Crown Transformation Programme would give everyone job security. Clearly, they cannot be trusted as now c.400 of our members are facing a very uncertain future due to the new franchising and closure plans. If the Post Office achieves the first tranche of franchising then there is no doubt, hot on the heels of this, will be a second tranche which will impact upon another 500-600 members' jobs.

The attacks on our jobs and Crown Office Network is appalling, especially as the Post Office is doing this in the name of wanting to make £10m in profit. We are after all, a public service, not a privatised company.

Lancaster

Lewes

Longton

Lower Edmonton

Maidenhead

Muswell Hill

Paisley

Penzance

Peterborough City

Pinner

Sheerness

St Andrews Cross

St Austell

St Johns Wood

Sudbury

Sydenham

Wakefield

Walworth Road

Waterlooville

On top of the closure of Earls Court and Western Road Brighton Crowns in the coming weeks the Post Office has also announced the closure of:

ANTRIM BARRY SHAFTESBURY SQUARE (BELFAST)

Yours sincerely



Andy Furey
Assistant Secretary



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PEOPLE'S
POST
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YOUR CROWNS & JOBS ARE UNDER ATTACK – OUR FIGHT BACK COMMENCES

The Post Office announcement to franchise and close 42 Crown Offices has gained considerable press and media attention, particularly in the localities affected. Additionally, many politicians have been quick to announce their support for Crown Offices and their opposition to franchising and have indicated they would support the CWU in campaigning to protect the status of Crown Offices. Below are some examples:

Crouch End & Muswell Hill Crowns

Catherine West, MP for Hornsey & Wood Green – extract from an email to Paula Vennells as reported in the Tottenham & Wood Green Independent

"I am concerned that you have identified Crouch End and Muswell Hill Crown Post Offices for potential franchising as both these Post Offices provide an important service to the community and local businesses and are particularly valued by older and less mobile residents.

"When we meet, I would be particularly keen to hear why these branches have been identified for potential franchising, how these proposals will impact on the quality and range of service provided and what the impact will be for the staff at both these Crown Post Offices".

Catherine West, MP has also agreed to meet myself and a Union delegation at the earliest opportunity to discuss how best we can work together to protect Crouch End and Muswell Hill Crowns.

Denbigh Crown Office

Ann Jones, Welsh Assembly Member in a letter to Neil Barry, Area Representative dated 20th January stated the following:

"I would be interested to hear how you and staff at Crown Post Office view this proposal and offer my support in whatever way I can".

There were also articles in the national newspapers – the Guardian, Express and the Daily Mirror. Additionally, many of our Representatives have provided radio interviews for regional radio stations and local independent networks.

Next Steps

We will be instigating local campaigns to oppose the franchises and will be linking up with community groups and politicians to bring as much pressure to bear on the Post Office as possible. Public meetings also will be organised – for more details, please contact your Area Representative who will be the lead contact for these activities.

Campaigning can Protect our Crown Offices

Below is a photo of a previous campaign supported by Alan Johnson former Home Secretary and previously CWU General Secretary. The campaign was successful, and the Crown Office in Lupus St, SW1 remains today.

