[Enter date]

Dear ……………..,

I am a member of the National Federation of SubPostmasters (NFSP), the only membership body, recognised by Post Office Ltd (PO), that represents postmasters. The NFSP is represents approximately 8,500 post office branches throughout the UK.

I need to highlight an urgent concern regarding a forthcoming denial of an essential Government service to some of the most vulnerable members of your constituency and may in turn force local post offices to close their doors forever.

You may already be aware that the Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) contract which remunerates post offices that offer this essential service over the counter, will expire in March 2024. This is a potentially catastrophic development which will inevitably result in post offices closing. Currently the Post Office carries out over 6 million DVLA transactions every year.

Remuneration is consistently an issue for postmasters, with many struggling to keep their offices viable, at a time with ever-increasing outgoings. If the DVLA contract is lost, this will be another significant impact upon remuneration and the viability of the whole network.

Across the UK, postmasters are forced to close their businesses because they are no longer viable meaning their investment is lost or they are selling their business for less than half what they paid. This is what successive Governments have done over the years as they have asset stripped this network of products and services. Now without retail propping up the business, the post office network would not exist.

In addition, over half the DVLA transactions made over post office counters are paid for in cash, however if the contract is lost the only option will be online payments. As we know, the digitally excluded and vulnerable in society are the groups most impacted by this lack of offline presence, therefore the NFSP has questioned if this could result in a breach of the Equality Act 2010, and the government’s own policy on access to cash and social inclusion?

Over the years postmasters have been treated with appalling contempt by Post Office Ltd. The ongoing revelations that have come from the Horizon Inquiry and the recent Bonusgate scandal illustrate this. The Government too has been progressively stripping essential Government services from the local post offices, which not only deprives postmasters of the remuneration that they need to run their business but denies the most vulnerable in our communities' access to vital services. The DVLA is the latest example.

As your constituent, I call on you to urgently intervene to ensure postmaster remuneration is not again stripped to the bone, which may result in I or my colleagues around the country no longer able to provide Post Office services in our communities.

Yours sincerely,

……………………………………………………………….

………………………………………………………………. Post Office