

Hello,

I'm writing to you on behalf of the National Federation of SubPostmasters (NFSP), a representative body representing 6,700 Postmasters across the UK.

With regards to your debate '*Financial inclusion: rural areas*', many thanks for highlighting this important issue on behalf of rural Postmasters.

The debate raised one solution as being bank hubs in rural communities, however these hubs only offer banking services. We feel the solution is to protect already established rural post offices, via government subsidies, so that rural communities can access to the full range of post office services.

As highlighted during the debate, many rural post offices have closed and have been replaced by an outreach van, which then works on severely reduced hours. These outreach services cannot replace an office which offers not only postal and banking provision, but also the social value and sense of community a bricks and mortar branch, and its Postmaster, offer.

We would like to request your support in ensuring the Government continues to subsidise the rural post office community network via the Spending Review, and prioritises social value and community over value for money for rural post offices.

If you require any further information, or would like to arrange a meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,
Ruth



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