

Electronicmemo



To: Tim Bentley/e/POSTOFFICE@POSTOFFICE

cc:

Hard Copy To:

Hard Copy cc:

Date: 13/03/2001 12:19

From: Tina Davis

Subject:  Fwd: Cleaveleys MSPO-West Lancs Gazette article

Tim,

For Your Information.

Regards,

Tina.

To: Tina Davis/e/POSTOFFICE@POSTOFFICE, Philip Jeary/e/POSTOFFICE@POSTOFFICE

cc: Carol Cathro/e/POSTOFFICE@POSTOFFICE

Hard Copy To:

Hard Copy cc:

Date: 13/03/2001 12:02

From: Christine Whiteside

Subject: Cleaveleys MSPO-West Lancs Gazette article

Tina

With regards to your request for background information and an "official" version of events concerning the closure of Cleaveleys MSPO & the subsequent newspaper article, I have spoken with Andy Wright of Network Transformation Manchester, who has given me the following details.

The sub postmaster was suspended last November & finally dismissed in January as the article states, but there were issues other than her refusal to use the Horizon system involved.

Initially they had hoped to put an interim postmaster into the premises to keep the office open but this created too many problems in respect of costs. The postmaster & her father own the premises & the rent they required for the post office was exorbitant. In addition they would only allow access to the premises during post office opening hours. Also the utility bills of the residential quarters above & the retail unit, could or would not be isolated from the bills of the post office, so in effect the interim postmaster would have had to meet the whole cost of utilities for the premises.

Because of these problems it was decided to find an alternative site for the post office which has now been found in Victoria Road West the main shopping area in the town. The unit has yet to be fitted with the necessary equipment but it is hoped it will be ready to open in May to early June. (Date being aimed for is 17/05/01, but there may be some slippage). They have an applicant for the position of postmaster, which is being processed, but is not complete at this stage.

Hope this is enough info should the issue be raised at the SRM.

regards
Christine