

PS/Alan Johnson

cc David Sibbick

From:

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**VISIT TO SOUTH RIBBLE AND CHORLEY CONSTITUENCIES: 16
NOVEMBER 2000**

Further to my minute of 11 November and briefing for your visit to the Preston and Chorley on Thursday, 16 November, the Post Office have supplied the following briefing on constituency specific post office network issues.

The issues that have been identified are predominantly around the uncertainties about the future of the network. As a number of sub-postmasters have been invited to attend the meetings, these have been included, although there should be nothing unexpected.

Issues

- The Branch Office in Chorley remains as part of the Crown office network. However, Royal Mail have moved from the building to a new location and the building, apart from the PON part, has been sold for development. No other movements in the network were reported.
- Worries about investing in their businesses when the future looks uncertain to them. Even in the uncertain climate some Subpostmasters have spent large amounts of their capital to transform their offices, in some cases with the assistance of PON, in others without this assistance. New Hall Lane, Cemetery & North Rd have all made major investment - all three Subpostmasters have received invitations to meet Alan Johnson.
- Subpostmasters who wish to sell their business are finding that 'buyers' are not coming forward mainly due to the publicity around the ACT issue. Some offices have been for sale for more than two years.
- Horizon has in the main been well received in local offices. There have been some teething problems, but Subpostmasters see this investment as a positive step to increasing business in the future.

NFSP

The local representative is Trish Kelly, Subpostmaster at Ainsdale.

Mike Whitehead