

Shex

From: The Rt. Hon. James Arbuthnot, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

15 December 2011

Edward Davey MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET

Dear Edward,

I have been contacted by a number of constituents living in Odiham in Hampshire who are most upset at the fact that their local post office has been closed, and a long-standing employee, Paul Kemp, has been dismissed due to 'irregularities'. I would be most grateful if you would look into these related matters as a matter of urgency.

We discussed this matter some months ago, and I am most concerned that the 'irregularities' may be a continuation of the problems that Post Office employees have been having with the software system that reconciled takings. I am aware of 34 individual employees throughout the country who feel they have been wrongly accused of fraud due to faults in this particular system, and am meeting with them in the New Year to discuss what action they plan on taking. You may recall that this case was brought to my attention in 2008, when the SubPostmistress from South Warnborough in Hampshire faced the same situation. It has not been rectified, a situation which does not bring credit to the Royal Mail. I am also writing to Ms Greene at to make her aware of this.

I have also asked her if she might offer some comments on the reasons why this particular Post Office, in Odiham, is now closed? Constituents quite rightly state that it is the worst possible time of year for it to close - in the run-up to Christmas. Odiham is a hub for a number of surrounding small villages, and the Post Office there was well patronised.

I would be grateful if you could let me have your thoughts.

Yours ever

GRO

Telephone:

GRO

Email: arbuthnotj

GRO

Website: www.jamesarbuthnot.com

