



Chris Heaton-Harris
Member of Parliament for Daventry
House of Commons, London SW1A
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Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the Banking Services (Post Offices) Bill.

I wholeheartedly understand that local bank branches and access to cash remain vital aspects of the day-to-day lives in local communities across our country, particularly for the elderly, disabled and those in rural communities. I want to assure you that supporting local communities is a Government priority.

I am aware that Duncan Baker MP presented his Private Members' Bill on the 2nd March and highlighted the need to look out for those who cannot or do not use digital banking. He also paid tribute to the hard work that sub-postmasters have put in during the Covid-19 pandemic, with 90% of the post office network remaining open during lockdown. This is so important when 99% of UK residents are situated within three miles of their local post office. I understand the Bill would ensure that banking institutions are mandated to maintain a minimum level of banking services for their customers, including the provision of cash via the Post Office network, even once a bank has left the area. I will continue to follow the Bill's progress closely.

More broadly, I welcome the successful renegotiation of the Post Office's commercial agreement with high street banks. This means that for the next three years, most personal customers and small and medium-sized enterprise customers can continue with everyday banking at one of the UK's 11,500 Post Office branches.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY