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From the office of **Andy Furey** Assistant Secretary

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AF/LS/100

30<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Nick Read  
Chief Executive  
Post Office Limited  
Finsbury Dials  
20 Finsbury Street  
London  
EC2Y 9AQ

Dear Nick

## **MAINTAINING AN EMERGENCY POST OFFICE NETWORK WHILST SAVING LIVES**

I am writing to let you know that as a consequence of the COVID-19 crisis and in particular the acute lack of PPE products across the Post Office network and Supply Chain that are so essential in safeguarding lives, the Union's Senior Leadership have made a policy decision on behalf of all of our members working across the Postal industry, both within Royal Mail and Post Office. This policy has been determined in conjunction with our General Secretary, Deputy General Secretary (Postal) and myself.

Due to the inherent and natural synergies between Post Office & Royal Mail, we have come to a decision on what the Union is urging Post Office / Royal Mail to do to support and protect the well-being of our members in these extreme circumstances.

We will be writing to all of our members immediately to let them know the full details of the Union's position with regards to their health, safety and well-being which is necessary due to the increasing death toll (which now stands at 1408). Our members' strongly held view is that both Royal Mail and the Post Office are effectively playing Russian roulette with their lives and this cannot go on. Increasingly members are calling for the Union to protect them from this appalling situation whereby there is inadequate or in most cases no Personal Protective Equipment being supplied.

The following are the major components of our policy decision and we will of course provide you with the Union's communication to members as soon as possible.

- All PPE must be in place in each and every workplace (including the Supply Chain operation and vehicles) or the operation will be suspended where this isn't happening
- Transactions & services performed across the entire Post Office network should be reduced to absolute essential items only which support communities and the vulnerable/disadvantaged, together with the revised Royal Mail operation. The essential items should be jointly determined between Post Office and CWU
- All Post Offices should close at 1pm Monday to Friday and 12.30pm on Saturday

**General Secretary: Dave Ward**

Facebook: [Dave Ward CWU](#) Twitter: [@DaveWardGS](#)

- Anyone over 65 should be attending work only if they are comfortable and confident to do so
- Employees should only have to work alternative days to enable strict social distancing and total equipment / workstation cleansing prior to each day. This means no more than 3 attendances per week by any person
- Social Distancing must operate in each and every Post Office without exception. Where this is not undertaken the service will be closed until this operation can be put in place in order to protect those providing essential Post Office services including Crew and Royal Mail Collection Drivers.

The policies above are generic across the Post Office network and incorporate all Post Office workers including Postmasters.

The Post Office is urged to embrace the Union's policies above with no financial detriment to our members (I have already written to you separately about Postmasters' remuneration).

I am available to discuss with you any alternative suggestions that protect our members, help stop the spread of the virus, whilst maximising the Post Office as an emergency service to help the country. I am also publishing this letter to the media as I believe this is the right position for the Post Office and the Government to immediately adopt in relation to the Post Office network and the public service it provides.

I'm sure you will concur that in the circumstances, the CWU's approach as described in this letter is proportionate and responsible and is designed to maintain an emergency Post Office service across the network whilst fully recognising the absolute and paramount need to save lives.

Yours sincerely



Andy Furey  
**Assistant Secretary**

CC: Paul Scully, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, BEIS