



David Drew MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Your Ref:
Our Ref:

15 February 2010

Dear Mr Drew

I have been asked to reply to you directly on the Parliamentary Question that you recently raised as follows:

"To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, how many and what proportion of sub-post offices operate as (a) a stand-alone business and (b) one of (i) two, (ii) three and (iii) four or more businesses"

The Post Office network is made up of branches that are directly managed (i.e. staffed by Post Office Limited - our Crown Post Offices) and those that are operated on an agency basis. The vast majority of the network is managed on an agency basis where the contract for services can be with an individual or a company/franchisee. Analysing the contract information that we hold on the agency network provides an indication of whether an individual or company/franchisee operates one or more Post Office branches as follows:

Agent operates Post Office as	Number*
Stand-alone business (i.e. One Post Office only)	8434
One of two businesses	500
One of three businesses	96
One of four or more businesses	1597

*(These figures do not include the Crown Office branches or those Post Offices operated as an outreach or satellite from an agency branch as our contract records include these with the core agency branch)

The last published figures for the Post Office network at the end of September 2009 shows a total of 11942 open Post Offices which includes Crown Post Offices, agency branches and those operated on an outreach or satellite basis.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely

Alan Cook
Managing Director



www.postoffice.co.uk