



Alistair Carmichael MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

11 February 2010

Dear Mr Carmichael

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 post offices have closed (a) in the UK and (b) in Scotland in each year since 1987"

The historic information that is available on the network of Post Offices is the number of open branches. Figures on the number of open Post Offices on a UK wide basis are available for the period that you have requested and figures on a countrywide basis are available from the year ending March 2000, as the information was not held in a countrywide format prior to that year.

Analysing the information that is available provides the following information for Scotland.

Scotland

Year end March	Number of open Post Offices
2000	1999
2001	1933
2002	1907
2003	1887
2004	1810
2005	1712
2006	1688
2007	1651
2008	1599
2009	1443



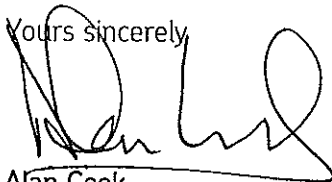
The figures for the UK as a whole are as follows;

UK

Year end March	Number of open Post Offices
1987	21211
1988	21071
1989	21030
1990	20871
1991	20638
1992	20160
1993	19958
1994	19782
1995	19607
1996	19414
1997	19251
1998	19008
1999	18775
2000	18393
2001	17846
2002	17584
2003	17239
2004	15961
2005	14609
2006	14376
2007	14219
2008	13567
2009	11952

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Cook".

Alan Cook
Managing Director