



James Paice MP  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

Your Ref:  
Our Ref:

23 March 2010

Dear Mr Paice

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, what estimate he has made of the number of post office branches in (a) rural and (b) urban areas in (i) England and (ii) Wales in each of the last 10 years"

The historic information that is available on the network of Post Offices is the number of open Post Offices which is reported at the end of March each year. Analysing this information shows the following breakdown for the number of Post Offices open in urban and rural areas for each year from the end of March 2000.

England			
Year	Total	Urban	Rural
1999/00	14292	7749	6543
2000/01	13903	7660	6243
2001/02	13699	7618	6081
2002/03	13404	7558	5846
2003/04	12296	6571	5725
2004/05	11148	5520	5628
2005/06	10979	5484	5495
2006/07	10879	5446	5433
2007/08	10324	5166	5158
2008/09	9050	4490	4560

Wales			
Year	Total	Urban	Rural
1999/00	1470	425	1045
2000/01	1399	419	980
2001/02	1373	416	957
2002/03	1355	435	920
2003/04	1282	382	900
2004/05	1199	317	882
2005/06	1167	320	847
2006/07	1146	315	831
2007/08	1116	303	813
2008/09	971	277	694

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely

Paula Vennells  
Network Director



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