



David Amess MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Your Ref:
Our Ref:

26 July 2010

Dear Mr Amess

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has referred your recent Parliamentary Question for a direct response from David Smith, Managing Director of Post Office Limited. David is currently away and has asked me to reply on his behalf.

'To ask the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. How many (a) post office branches within supermarkets and (b) stand-alone post office branches are located in (i) Southend and (ii) Essex; and if he will make a statement'

The vast majority of Post Office® branches are operated on an agency basis whereby subpostmasters or agents provide post office services under contract to Post Office Limited. In some cases the agent may operate a stand alone Post Office service but in the vast majority of cases the agent will combine the post office service with their own private retail business.

The type of retail business operated by an agent, whilst of interest to Post Office Limited in the context of its commercial fit with the Post Office, is not information that Post Office Limited maintains for its own use. I am not therefore in a position to provide you with the information that you have requested.

We do hold information on the number of open Post Office branches by Parliamentary Constituency and a full list of branches is placed in the House of Commons library on an annual basis for use by members. Analysing the area covered by the new Parliamentary Constituency boundaries for the Southend Unitary Authority area and Essex, as provided by the House of Commons information office, and combining this with the latest network information for the end of March 2010 shows the following number of open Post Offices.

Area	Number of Open Post Offices
Southend	21
Essex	280

I hope this information is helpful to you

Yours sincerely

Mike Moores
Finance Director



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