

Title:

Mr

Forename:

Stephen

Surname:

Knight

Representing:

Organisation

Organisation (if applicable):

Colne Valley Postal History Museum

Email:**What additional details do you want to keep confidential?:**

No

If you want part of your response kept confidential, which parts?:**Ofcom may publish a response summary:**

Yes

I confirm that I have read the declaration:

Yes

Additional comments:

Although Royal Mail claims it has no current plans to reduce the number of post boxes, it HAS considerably shrunk the number of comprehensive service access points at rural Post Offices by reducing the size of this network. There is no guarantee that a future privatised Royal Mail, or other DUSP, would not consider "rationalising" the rural delivery & collection network to reduce costs, leaving only the profitable urban network to generate shareholder value. For this reason, having regard to the data on historic provision of access points nationally, I support the proposal from Ofcom.

Question 4.1: Do you agree with Ofcom's analysis that the current regulatory requirements for the provision of post boxes should be modified?:

Yes. For notes, Additional Comments.

Question 5.1: Do you agree with Ofcom's proposed new criteria? Please provide evidence to support your view. :

Although Royal Mail claims it has no current plans to reduce the number of post boxes, it HAS considerably shrunk the number of comprehensive service access points at rural Post Offices by reducing the size of this network. There is no guarantee that a future privatised Royal Mail, or other DUSP, would not consider "rationalising" the rural delivery & collection network to reduce costs, leaving only the profitable urban network to generate shareholder value. For this reason, having regard to the data on historic provision of access points nationally, I support the proposal from Offcom.

Evidence from the recent "network reduction " strategy applied to sub-post offices shows that Royal Mail, if left unregulated in this area, will close down access points to save costs.

Question 5.2: Do you think other criteria than those discussed in our consultation should be adopted? If so, please give your reasons and evidence.:

No.

Question 5.3: Do you have any other comments on the issues raised by this consultation?:

Royal Mail is in flagrant breach of the existing voluntary code of practice for protection of historic post boxes agreed in 2003 with English Heritage. This policy is disregarded by Royal Mail and specifically RoMEC and their sub-contractors on an almost daily basis. Historic and valued heritage postboxes are still being removed and destroyed in contravention of this policy. Evidence: In March 2012, Royal Mail demanded the clearance of the RoMEC controlled storage facilities at the Royal Mail depot at Foxtail Rd, Ransomes EuroPark, Ipswich in order to create better road access to the site. The storage area contained at least one Victorian wall post box and a Type G pillar box of a type not represented in the National collection held by the BPMA. RoMEC decided to scrap all the heritage boxes on site and they were duly destroyed and certificates of destruction issued by the scrap merchant. This is just one example of Royal Mail, RoMEC and their contractors ignoring the RM/EH policy document on the protection of post boxes.