

The Royal Mail Delivery to Neighbour scheme **must be an opt in** scheme.

Under the proposed scheme 'opt out' addressees will be indicating that they are likely to be absent from their property – this is a burglar's charter. I resent being placed in a position where I am being forced into declaring my possible absence from my home. The scheme **must be on an 'opt in' basis**, and if an individual wishes to take part a sticker on their door should state they have 'opted in' (not out as proposed), with the individual accepting the inherent risks involved in advertising the possibility of the property being unattended, for perhaps a lengthy period. **Individuals who do not wish to take part in the scheme must not be forced into declaring that their property is likely to be unattended**, indicated by a sticker, which may be observed from, say, the front gate.

If the proposed scheme is implemented it is my intention not to display a sticker and refuse to accept items from a neighbour, leaving the Royal Mail to retrieve the item and arrange delivery or collection in the proper manner. Other delivery services do not force householders to 'mark' their property with a sticker. If a property is burgled will the owner be in a position to sue the Royal Mail for insisting that the property is 'marked' as likely to be unattended and hence an easy target for a burglar?