

I received a leaflet from the Royal Mail this morning clearly anticipating favourable ruling for their proposals in this matter. Since your closing date for consultation is this week that doesn't leave much time; perhaps this was deliberate.

In my view leaving parcels with neighbours is a very bad idea, particularly in central London where most people aren't on good enough terms to make this feasible (I do not know the names of all my neighbours). The idea that this will happen by default – unless one opts out – is therefore objectionable.

What is far worse however is the proposal that one must stick a visible label on one's door in order to opt out. This may be taken by some neighbours as a declaration of hostilities.

What is not clear under the proposals is how I am supposed to retrieve letters delivered next door when the recipient then goes out – or away – nor what my attendance responsibilities are if I take in their mail.

The real problem here is the postmen themselves who routinely do not wait before one can get to the door. I have often found red slips pushed through the door when I have been in from postmen who have not bothered to ring. I have complained to the local delivery office in xx but am always ignored. Now they will have an even easier option.