

Question 1: Do you agree that Ofcom should grant approval to Royal Mail for the Delivery to Neighbour service? If not please explain your answer. :

I do not. If any persons are interested then they should be enabled to take part through OPT-IN. I absolutely disagree with this scheme being FORCED on everyone even though it has opt out options. Any Opt out scheme is a form of fascism. Let those who want it opt for it. This opt out scheme forces any people who do not want it to place stickers on their doors. This alerts neighbours. Where a vulnerable disabled person has already suffered abuse and harassment at the hands of neighbours as we have this will cause us to be harassed again when the neighbours see the stickers. This would not be the case with opt-in. This opt out scheme is discriminatory toward vulnerable disabled people by putting them in harms way without any choice. It breaches vulnerable disabled peoples human and civil rights by not allowing them any other choice but to affix stickers to their doors which make reference to neighbours. To do this will be almost certainly viewed by the previously hostile neighbours as a negative comment about them and while this will essentially be true it will definitely cause them to feel wronged and thus provoke further harassment. These are people who have previously commented that disabled people "ought to be locked up in institutions as they used to be" and "the Nazis had the right idea stick em in gas chambers"; we have been unable to tackle the harassment as this involves proof which entails recording any incidents, difficult at best and quite often impossible. Through the good efforts of the council housing officers we have achieved an uneasy peace but this has meant no further serious incidents, the threat of eviction is a powerful incentive, however now the Royal Mail is forcing us to place stickers on our door referring to neighbours. Bad idea. Again I say for the record, this should have been Opt-IN.

Question 2: Are there other consequences following the roll out of the service across the UK that we have not included in our assessment? If so, please explain.:

See above comment. Consequences including potentially violent assault upon vulnerable disabled people.

Question 3: Do you have any comments on the scope and wording of the proposed Notification and approval:

See above. This has the potential to cause widespread harm. Where any person has difficult neighbours including potentially violent ones this action forces the people to place stickers referring to neighbours. While this may work for people with good neighbours, on many run down troubled estates this has the potential to provoke violent assaults as the difficult and potentially violent neighbours take offence at seeing stickers which they will only see in a negative context. They will see this as saying that they are untrustworthy people and react badly and probably violently. An OPT-IN scheme has none of the same potentialities as it will not require people to affix stickers to doors. Where any mistakes happen and articles, most likely parcels, are delivered to neighbours by mistake, this scheme risks putting the vulnerable disabled people at serious risk, if they attempt to retrieve their parcels from the same potentially violent neighbours, and it will certainly cause severe distress by forcing the vulnerable disabled person to retrieve their parcels/post from someone who has already caused harassment. Such blanket schemes inevitably will do this even with opt out. The opt in would not since the default process would involve leaving a card saying that there would

be a second attempt to deliver the item the following day and this would ask the recipient to contact the sorting office if this was not convenient and arrange a time.