

2.2 Deputy K.C. Lewis of St. Saviour of the Minister for Treasury and Resources regarding Jersey Post plans for the closure of post offices:

Would the Minister advise Members whether he has been notified by Jersey Post of any plans to close post offices in the Island?

Deputy J.A.N. Le Fondré (Assistant Minister for Treasury and Resources):

Yes, Sir. Under the terms of the memorandum of understanding, which is between Jersey Post and the Minister for Treasury and Resources, the company is required to notify the Minister of any plans, such as the closure of sub post offices, and no such notification has been made.

2.4.1 Deputy K.C. Lewis:

It has recently been disclosed that in the United Kingdom the postal service intends to close down in excess of 2,500 post offices. In Jersey the post office is the hub of the community, especially in rural Parishes. Will the Minister assure Members that any such proposals in Jersey would be vigorously rejected? Thank you, Sir.

Deputy J.A.N. Le Fondré:

I would never wish to say “never” because I have been tripped-up by saying those things in the past. Certainly, Sir, I am in agreement with the Deputy that we definitely value the community value of sub post offices and it would, I believe, have to require particular circumstances to warrant such a closure.

2.4.2 Deputy R.G. Le Hérisier:

Would the Assistant Minister confirm that, given the dramatic decreases in parcel post that occurred in the last year, the amount of throughput through sub post offices is much reduced and is making their position very vulnerable?

Deputy J.A.N. Le Fondre:

I am unable to confirm that, Sir, because obviously the Deputy has far more information to his hand than I do. I am happy to check that out and come back to him.

2.4.3 Deputy G.P. Southern:

In addition to the 70 redundancies in Offshore Solutions, the fulfilment branch of the Post Office, has the Minister been informed how many voluntary redundancies have taken place among the admin staff and whether notice has been given that further redundancies are being made this year?

Deputy J.A.N. Le Fondre:

I am not entirely sure what that has to do with the original question, Sir. This question is about sub post offices. But, no, I have not been informed, Sir, and again if you wish to have information I am sure we can find out.