

News from ...



Peter Peacock
Scottish Labour Regional MSP for the Highlands and Islands

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Western Isles Post Office Action

Peter Peacock, Highlands and Islands Labour regional MSP, is offering his support to Western Isles residents to ensure they do not lose access to Post Office services.

Mr Peacock has written to the 13 postmasters, and the community councils which represent their areas, on the Western Isles to express his concern at the 'disproportionate' level of closure on the Islands as opposed to the mainland.

"These Post Office branches have been identified for possible closure across the area with no provision for new outreach services, which might have mitigated the impact of the closures.

The proposed closures represent about 20% of the post offices in the Western Isles and this seems to me to be wholly disproportionate," he said.

Mr Peacock pointed out that the consultation process offers the chance to argue for and promote new postal services in rural areas

"I have visited "outreach services" in other parts of the Highlands and Islands, involving both a mobile post office and satellite services in village halls and am convinced they offer a useful and innovative way of delivering postal services," he said.

"Today, I have written to John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Sustainable Growth calling for the Scottish Government to add some funds to the UK government new fund for postal outreach services in an effort to meet the unique circumstances of the Islands I will also be writing to Postwatch Scotland and the Post Office expressing my concerns," he commented.

End

Website link : www.peterpeacock.org.uk