

Proposals for Changes in Royal Mail

1st and 2nd Class Royal Mail Services

I am absolutely appalled that it is proposed to merge 1st and 2nd Class inland Royal Mail Services. I am totally against this, and it must not go ahead. Users, particularly non-business users, are entitled to be able to send 1st class letters at a reasonable price, knowing that these letters are likely to arrive the following day

60p is reasonable, not the alternative minimum of 5.90 for special delivery, and for which items a visit to a Post Office is necessary (something older and disabled people may find difficult), and which, in any case, cannot itself be absolutely guaranteed to arrive the next day. So, for 60p we have 90% guarantee of next day delivery, for 5.90 we have 96% guarantee, according to current statistics. The difference in price is wholly unacceptable

Before the two-tier system was introduced in the 1970s, all mail was effectively 1st class, as most of it arrived the following day. Why can we not revert to that situation?

Deliveries

I understand that it is suggested that Royal Mail be able to deliver people's mail to points other than own front door letter-boxes, such as a "secure boundary box", or even a "local" railway station!!! It seems that it is desired to adopt methods used on the Continent of Europe and the USA, and, as for many things that come from those areas, these are bad ideas and not acceptable in the U K. This, too, must not go ahead

Universal Service

I understand that it is proposed to interfere with the Universal Service, affecting numbers of deliveries and collections in a week, but fortunately there are as yet no powers to do so. I trust that no Government will ever allow such powers, and that the universal service will continue unchanged

It is clear that these proposals represent and support Business before private individuals, and this is very wrong. I think it is time that the Government required a rebalancing of this bias, especially taking into account the old and disabled who rely upon the Royal Mail service as it is. The Banks made the mistake of thinking they could abolish cheques: private individuals showed them they could not. Private individuals must now show these proposed changes cannot succeed

I trust that none of these absurd proposals will ever see the light of day