



ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL COURIER & EXPRESS SERVICES
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Dear Sir/Madam

The Association of International Courier and Express Services (AICES) welcomes this opportunity to respond to Ofcom's review of the regulation of Royal Mail.

AICES is the UK trade organisation for companies handling international express documents and package shipments. Our members provide door-to-door transport and deliveries of tracked next-day or time-definite shipments, including documents, parcels and merchandise goods. AICES members directly employ around 38,000 people and indirectly support a total of almost 82,000 UK jobs and are responsible for over 95% of the international courier and express shipments moved through the UK every day.

In response to Question 6: Do you have any further comments or views on the issues identified in this discussion paper?

AICES supports Ofcom's responsibility to secure the provision of a universal postal service as set down in statute. However, as stated in our response to Ofcom's consultation on Principles for setting licence fees and administrative charges in June 2014, it is important to ensure that the definition of universal services is very clearly delimited and is not expanded for example by redefining 'premium services'. We also noted and welcomed in our response that Ofcom recognises that express couriers provide non-universal services.

AICES members operate non-universal services in a highly competitive marketplace – where there are hundreds of express services companies - and are subject to competition law. Our Members do not consider themselves to be 'postal operators' under the terms of the Postal Services Act 2011 and therefore would strongly object to any suggestion that additional regulatory burden should be imposed on the express services sector. The express services market is highly competitive and our Members already have every incentive to provide excellent service standards and indeed service quality is carefully monitored on an on-going basis.

It would therefore be completely inappropriate for express services to be subject to unnecessary additional regulation.

Yours sincerely,

Annex 2

**Secretary General
AICES**