

NEWS RELEASE

10 Feb: immediate release

East Hants Post Offices need more freedom to grow their business, say Michael Mates and Damian Hinds

East Hants MP Michael Mates and parliamentary candidate Damian Hinds are calling for local Post Offices to be given more opportunities to develop and grow their business. Having lost so many Post Office branches already, there is an urgent need to help the remaining network to be healthy and profitable, to protect the vital community service they provide. But restrictions from government agencies are actually holding back the ambition of some entrepreneurial subpostmasters.

David Edwards of Holybourne Post Office says: “People come to us from far beyond the village, attracted by the combination of a great local shop and a wide range of Post Office services such as holiday money, usually with shorter queues than the major Post Office branches. But we have been told we can’t do vehicle licensing, because only a fixed number of Post Offices can stock the forms, and that quota is already filled. This seems misguided – how is a customer supposed to know which Post Offices do vehicle licensing, and which don’t?”

Michael Mates has taken up Holybourne’s case with both the DVLA and Post Office Ltd, but they have refused to give way, insisting that the quota for vehicle licensing Post Offices can’t be exceeded.

Damian Hinds says: “Our remaining Post Offices are a precious resource. It is vital that they are given every chance to succeed and thrive. I am pleased that we have secured a commitment from the Conservative team responsible that if there is a change of government a Post Office Action Plan would include freeing up postmasters to develop new lines of business, including a wide range of financial services and additional mail services, plus enhancements to the Post Office Card Account. It would also spread other services, including allowing more Post Offices to sell motor vehicle licences.”

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