

## Written Answer (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) - 30 Jan 2019

Marion Fellows MP  
House of Commons

**Marion Fellows:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many main post offices opened between (a) April 2016 and March 2017 and (b) April 2017 to March 2018. [212636]

**Kelly Tolhurst:**

The Government recognises the critical role that post offices play in communities and for small businesses across the UK. This is why the Government committed to safeguard the post office network and protect existing rural services. The overall number of post offices across the UK remains at its most stable in decades with over 11,500 branches thanks to significant Government investment of over £2 billion since 2010.

While the Government sets the strategic direction for the Post Office, it allows the company the commercial freedom to deliver this strategy as an independent business. The management of the post office network is an operational matter for the Post Office. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the Group Chief Executive of Post Office Limited, to write to the hon Member on this matter. A copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.