



Mike Penning MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Your Ref:
Our Ref:

18 September 2009

Dear Mr Penning

I have been asked to reply to you directly on the Parliamentary Question that you raised as follows;

'To ask the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how many post office branches there were in (a) Hemel Hempstead constituency and (b) Hertfordshire in each of the last 30 years.'

The historic information that is available on the network of Post Office® branches is the number of open Post Office branches. On an annual basis Post Office limited place in the House of Commons library a list of Post Office branches by Parliamentary constituency. Post Office Limited holds these records from the year ending March 2002, data by constituency is not held prior to this.

Information on the total number of Post Office branches in the Hemel Hempstead constituency for each year since 2002 is as follows;

Year ending March	Total Number of open Post Office branches
2002	22
2003	22
2004	17
2005	16
2006	16
2007	16
2008	16
2009	13

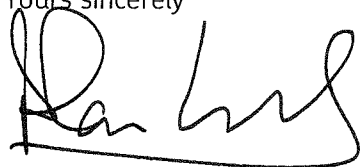


Analysing the records for those constituencies that make up the Hertfordshire area shows the following number of open Post Office branches;

Year ending March	Total Number of open Post Office branches
2002	228
2003	227
2004	198
2005	194
2006	193
2007	194
2008	189
2009	156

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Cook", written over a horizontal line.

Alan Cook
Managing Director