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Dear Dr Lucas,

**RE: Proposals to close Reading & Oxford Mail Centres**

Thank you for your letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008. I can confirm that Royal Mail has announced a final decision regarding the consolidation of Reading, Swindon and Oxford Mail Centres into a new Thames Valley Mail Centre and that mail centre operations in Reading and Oxford will cease in 2009.

To address your concern over job losses, we are currently finalising a preference exercise, which will allow people to choose between a number of options for the future. May I assure you that Royal Mail has no intention of making anyone compulsorily redundant, and will be providing a number of packages to help those who wish to transfer to another unit and/or relocate to Swindon.

Looking at the environmental impacts you've mentioned, although moving mail further to be processed would seem to have a detrimental environmental effect, this must be offset by the positive effect that closing two large industrial units (which run 24 hours a day). Our initial environmental findings actually make the change carbon neutral, which although not reducing our carbon footprint, does mean it is not being increased.

As regards Reading Delivery Office, we are still searching for a suitable site in the Reading area, and Rose Kiln Lane is only one of the options we will consider.

In reference to the CWU's counter proposals, these have all been discussed, assessed and responded to over the last 20 months. This process was invaluable in helping us confirm that the decision we have now taken is right for our people, our customers and the business.

I appreciate your concerns, and can assure you that in order to help Royal Mail compete in an open postal market, now and in the future, these changes must be made.

Yours Sincerely

Rob Jenson  
Area General Manager