

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party
for the South East of England



May 15, 2008

Rob Jensen (General Manager)
Royal Mail
80 Caversham Rd
Reading RG1 1AA

Dear Mr Jensen,

Proposals to close Reading & Oxford Mail Centres

I understand that Royal Mail has made known that it will announce a final decision regarding its proposal to close the existing Reading Mail Centre and its centre at Oxford sometime in May. I am writing to urge you not to carry out this plan.

The proposal, if put into practice, will mean the loss of over 400 jobs on both sites and almost certainly a deterioration in service levels for customers in the area.

I am concerned that the plans to move the processing of mail operations to Swindon, which is a minimum of forty miles away, would result in more vehicles travelling further on already congested roads, giving rise to more vehicle emissions reducing local air quality and leading to inefficiencies.

I also understand that the Delivery office that is currently in the Mail Centre building will be relocated to a vacant building in Rose Kiln Lane, owned by Royal Mail. This building is nowhere near the centre of town, is not on a bus route, nor is it big enough to accommodate basic facilities such as a canteen for the staff.

The CWU has put forward a number of alternative options including the retention of some form of mail processing operation in the central Reading area and I look forward to hearing your response to these proposals.

It would be unacceptable were the prime motivation for these plans to make as much money as possible from the sale of the existing site. Yet, your proposals, as I understand them, seem based solely on short term financial gain. The effect on your staff, the public and the environment do not seem to feature anywhere in the thinking of Royal Mail and I, therefore, urge you to reconsider.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.