



## **Customer and Stakeholder Engagement Brighton, Ditchling Road**

On 19 January 2021 we announced the closure of 82 branches, including our branch at Brighton, Ditchling Road. The following provides detail of the stakeholder engagement we have undertaken, and feedback received, since our announcement.

### **Customer and stakeholder contact**

On 25<sup>th</sup> January we wrote to all customers who either hold accounts at the branch, use it frequently or live nearby. The letters advised customers of the reasons behind our decision and effective date of closure. They also provided customers with details of the nearest alternative HSBC UK branch, alternative ways to continue to access their usual banking services and how to access the closure Impact Assessment.

We wrote to Caroline Lucas, constituency MP, on 19 January 2021 to advise of our decision to close the branch and offered to meet to explain the reasons and how we would be supporting all of our customers during this period of change.

At announcement we wrote to a number of key stakeholders. These included:

- Which?
- Age UK
- Citizens Advice
- Alzheimer's Society
- Post Office

On 25<sup>th</sup> January our Local Director additionally wrote to the following key local stakeholders to advise of our decision to close:

- Amy Heley, Brighton and Hove City Council
- Local Chamber of Commerce
- Local Council Leader
- Local Library
- Age UK
- Alzheimer's Society
- Citizens Advice
- RNIB

We have published an Impact Assessment on our public website. We also made copies of the report available in the closing branch. The assessment includes further details on the reasons behind our decision, the information used, the nearest HSBC UK and Post Office

*Information correct at the time of publication.*

branches, alternative ways to bank and how to contact the bank for additional support. These reports can be accessed at [www.hsbc.co.uk/branch-finder](http://www.hsbc.co.uk/branch-finder).

Posters have been displayed at the branch with information on the nearest HSBC UK branch and cash machine as well as the nearest Post Office counter.

We provided extensive training to our branch teams in order that they could fully support both personal and business customers with accessing alternative ways to bank. Following this training our branch staff have been proactively engaging with customers, particularly those who are reliant on the branch services, to help them look at the alternatives that are available, including the services provided by the Post Office.

We have also been engaging with the nearest Post Office counters to the branch to ensure they know we are closing, are aware of the services they can provide to our customers and to address any queries or concerns they may have in meeting the needs of our customers.

### **Customer and stakeholder reaction/feedback**

- We have written to Councillor Amy Heley and there has been no further correspondence.
- We have proactively contacted our vulnerable customers who use the branch to understand how they currently bank. During these calls we have taken the time to understand our customer's specific circumstances for example, where they live or transport used. This has allowed us to provide our customers with information on the services that may be suitable for them such as local Post Office or digital options available through our app or online banking.
- Many customers were not aware of the options available through the Post Office when we have explained the services offered. We have supported customers in finding their closest office and taken the time to make sure they are fully aware of everything they can do there.
- We have received 10 Customer Satisfaction Surveys where customers have expressed dissatisfaction and mentioned the branch closure. Some of the reasons included distance to the next closest branch and the interaction with the staff at the branch.
- We have identified a number of potentially vulnerable small business banking customers who regularly use the branch and we have contacted these customers to discuss suitable alternative ways to bank. A number of these customers were not aware of the Post Office services available and were pleased they no longer need to make a long trip to a branch to pay in cash.

### **Follow up action taken**

- We have proactively approached customers using in the cheque paying in machine to explain how they pay in a cheque on the mobile app, this has led to us supporting many customers register for online and mobile banking. Customers have been pleased with the support we are providing and some saying this is the incentive they needed to register for our digital services.

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- We have contacted all of our customers who have expressed dissatisfaction in a survey to understand their specific situation and explain all of their options. We supported some of these customers in registering for digital banking and reassured them that staff in the local branches would be able to continue to help them. We talked through the service the Post Office offers. All of the customers we spoke to were grateful for the phone call.
- We have visited the 3 local Post Offices to ensure they are aware of the closure of Brighton, Ditchling Road branch and the services they can provide to our customers.
- All staff in Brighton, Ditchling Road have received tailored vulnerable customer training to upskill them in holding in depth conversations to support our customers in finding alternative ways to bank.

### **Contacting the bank after closure**

Following the closure of this branch, if you have any questions or need advice on how to access our services, you can contact us in the following ways:

- Visit us at <https://www.hsbc.co.uk/ways-to-bank/>
- Contact us on 03457 404 404 (+44 1226 261 010 from outside the UK). Currently open 8am-8pm every day.
- Visit any HSBC UK branch (branch hours can vary so please check our website before you visit)

Braille, Large Print and Audio copies of this document can be provided upon request.