

Customer and Stakeholder Engagement Bideford

On 30 November 2022 we announced the closure of 114 branches, including our branch at Bideford. The following provides detail of the stakeholder engagement we have undertaken, and feedback received, since our announcement.

Customer and stakeholder contact

On 20th and 23rd January, we wrote to all regular users of this branch. 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 Sir Geoffrey Cox, constituency MP, on 30 November 2022 to advise of our decision to close the branch and offered to meet to explain the reasons and how we would be supporting all our customers during this period of change.

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

- Post Office
- HM Treasury
- Cash Action Group
- CBI
- British Chambers of Commerce
- Which?

On 23 January 2023 our Local Director additionally wrote to the following key local stakeholders to advise of our decision to close:

- Councillor Doug Bushby, Chair of the Council
- Heather Blackburn, Clerk to the Parish Council
- Carole Trelease, Post Office
- Ebony Perryman, Post Office
- Chamber of Commerce
- Bideford Library
- Age UK Devon
- Bideford Memory Café
- Citizens Advice, Rural Devon
- RNIB
- The Northam Care Trust
- Northern Devon Food Bank

We published an Impact Assessment on our public website. The assessment provides further details on the reasons behind our decision, the information used, the nearest HSBC UK and Post Office branches, alternative ways to bank and how to contact the

bank for additional support. To view these reports just scan the QR code or visit <https://www.hsbc.co.uk/branch-finder>. Copies are also available in the closing branch.



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 Sir Geoffrey Cox, Constituency MP and there has been no further correspondence.
- Our Network Manager has arranged a meeting with the local Post Office to ensure they are aware of the closure at Bideford branch and the services they can provide to our customers.
- The overall feedback from our customers has been disappointment, however they do understand the reason for closure. Most customers are looking to complete their transactional banking at the Post Office or visit another branch.
- Calls to vulnerable customers have been well received and they have generally welcomed the opportunity to discuss the branch closure as a follow-up to the letter they received. During these calls we have taken the time to understand our customer's specific circumstances, which has allowed us to provide our customers with information on the services that may be suitable for them.

Follow up action taken

- We have been supporting customers in setting up telephone and digital banking. The branch team have been speaking to customers who use the branch, educating them on how to navigate mobile and internet banking, which will enable them to complete transactions using these channels.

Information correct at the time of publication.

- We have spoken with several customers who were not aware of the services available to HSBC customers at the Post Office. We have spent time with these customers identifying their own local Post Offices and explaining the transactions they can complete there.
- The branch have supported customers who have no access to a compatible device for online banking through our community tablet programme, ensuring they are able to get online and educating them in how to navigate online and mobile banking.

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/waystobank/>
- Contact us on 03457 404 404 (+44 1226 261 010 from outside the UK). Currently open 8am-8pm every day. Here you can:
 - Get help with your day-to-day banking enquiries
 - Talk to us about your closing branch
- Visit any HSBC UK Branch (branch hours can vary so please check our website before you visit at <https://www.hsbc.co.uk/branch-finder>)

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