

From: [Nick Boles](#)

To: Various

Cc:

Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2007 1:27 PM

Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tory candidate calls for judicial review of Post Office closure decisions

Nick Boles, Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, for Grantham and Stamford has today called for Lincolnshire County Council to initiate a judicial review of the Post Office's decision-making about closures of sub-post offices in Lincolnshire.

Mr Boles said,

"I am appalled by the shambolic and cavalier way in which the Post Office has handled this process from beginning to end. Their abuse of the public's trust has taken many forms:

1. They have misrepresented the ease of access of alternative branches to people losing their local post office e.g. that of Morton to the people of Rippingale.
2. They have threatened sub-postmasters with loss of compensation if they talked publicly about the performance of the branches threatened with closure.
3. They have ignored repeated requests to give people an opportunity to save their local branch by publishing information about each branch's financial impact and allowing local people to come up with a plan to increase their revenues.
4. They have admitted that they made fundamental errors in their assessment of the viability of Ryhall Road in Stamford.
5. They have issued completely conflicting statements about the fate of the other branches, with their press department issuing a statement declaring that the replacement of Rippingale post office by an outreach service will go ahead while the executive responsible for the closure plans, Mark Partington, has stated on local television that a final decision about Rippingale has not yet been made and is subject to a further review by Postwatch.

The Post Office has been secretive, high-handed and incompetent. The people of south-west Lincolnshire have lost all confidence in the sincerity of the consultation process and the good faith of Post Office managers.

I therefore call on Lincolnshire County Council to request a judicial review of the Post Office's decisions and for all disputed closures to be put on hold until the judicial review has run its course."

END