

News Release

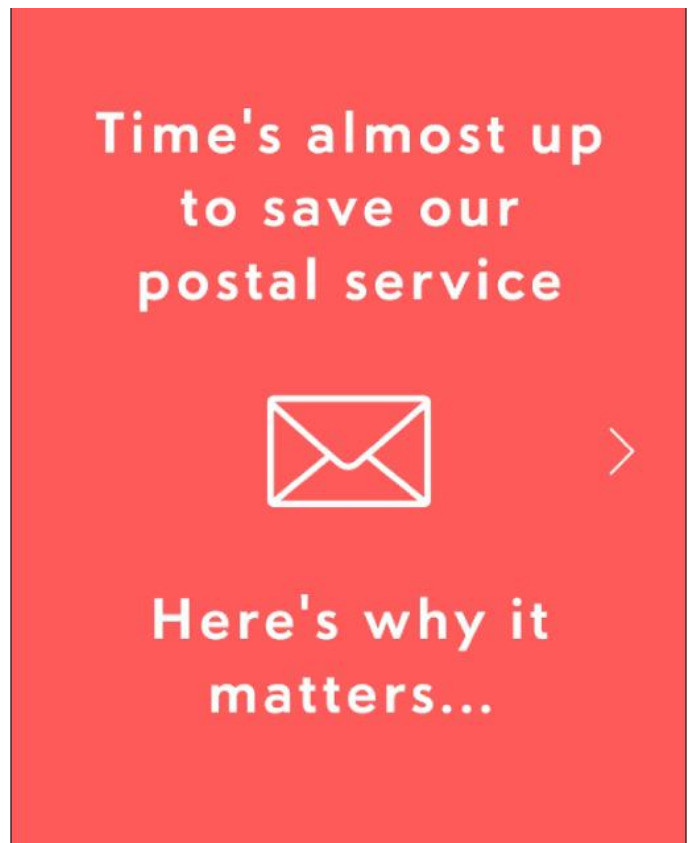


Friday 4 April 2025
For immediate release

Greeting Card Association awaits government response as its Royal Mail petition surpasses 10,000 signatures

The Greeting Card Association-backed petition calling for MPs to scrutinise changes to the postal service has reached 10,000 signatures – crossing the threshold which mandates a response from government.

Milestone reached as Ofcom consultation deadline on reforms looms and Royal Mail raises stamp prices again on Monday 7 April



Hard-hitting messages posted on the GCA's social media accounts today as its petition reaches 10,000 signatures (<https://www.instagram.com/share/p/BAWEWRMpDm>)

The Greeting Card Association's campaign to keep the Royal Mail service reliable, national and affordable, has received a significant boost as its parliamentary [petition](#) reached 10,000 signatures.

Despite Royal Mail's claims that it should be allowed to reduce second class postal deliveries to as few as two days per week and cut Saturday deliveries altogether, over 10,000 UK voters have now joined the GCA's call for proper parliamentary scrutiny of any proposed changes.

This petition, which also calls on MPs to regulate the price of first-class mail and mandate the Royal Mail meet existing delivery targets before changing the Universal Service Obligation (USO), now must receive a formal response from the government.

And the crossing of the 10,000-signature threshold is timely – the Royal Mail's regulator Ofcom is currently consulting on those proposed changes setting a 10 April deadline for responses but has made it clear it can make changes to the USO without any involvement from MPs¹.

That's why the GCA has also today stepped up its social media campaign with a new hard-hitting series of posts at <https://www.instagram.com/share/p/BAWEWRMpDm>.

The posts highlight the concern caused by the current uncertainty over Royal Mail's ownership and the threat to the price and reliability of the postal service if they are allowed to dilute the service.

Royal Mail has failed to meet delivery commitments outlined in the current USO since 2022 but has consistently raised prices. A first-class stamp is now 75 per cent more expensive than three years ago offsetting the £15m-plus fines levied by Ofcom on Royal Mail for missed delivery targets.

The cost of a first-class stamp price is up a staggering 170 per cent over the last decade, and the price rise that takes effect on Monday (7 April) when the price rises to £1.70, will be the sixth in under three years.

GCA members believe the proposed weakening of the USO will lead small businesses and consumers to rely on an increasingly unaffordable, uncapped and unregulated first-class service to ensure cards and important letters are delivered on time.

The GCA, which represents over 500 publishers, retailers, agents, specialist suppliers and distributors that make up an industry worth over £1.5bn to the UK economy now awaits the government's official response to its petition.

Amanda Fergusson, chief executive of the GCA said:

"Our members are deeply concerned that they're being railroaded into accepting reforms that will make the Royal Mail service they depend on, less reliable and affordable.

"We now look forward to receiving a formal government response to their petition.

"We know a postal service that's a mere shadow of the service Royal Mail should be delivering, will cause real damage to small businesses, consumers, high streets and communities."

-ends-

Further information: Nick Agarwal, +44 (0)7568 101045
Andrea Ross, +44 (0)7961 776339
gca@arena-pr.com

Editors' Notes

Petition

The petition can be accessed at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/701850> or via the QR Code.

It calls on the Government to amend legislation to require parliamentary scrutiny of any change to the Royal Mail's Universal Service Obligation (USO).

It also asks the government to insist any changes to the USO are dependent on:

- Royal Mail meeting existing performance delivery targets for letters and cards
- New regulation for the price of first-class mail to avoid further above-inflation rises and



¹ <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/post/royal-mail/securing-the-future-of-the-universal-postal-service/>: "The changes we are assessing could be made through Ofcom's regulations, and would not require Parliament to make any changes to legislation."

- Royal Mail maintaining a national, affordable, and reliable postal service that supports high streets and communities across the UK.

About the Greeting Card Association

- The Greeting Card Association (GCA) is an independent, not-for-profit trade organisation operating for the benefit of its members and has been the voice of the greeting card industry, providing support to its members since 1919.
- The GCA embraces over 500 publishers, retailers, agents, distributors and recommended suppliers of materials and services and is the voice of the British greeting card industry, representing the industry to stakeholders such as postal service providers, government, colleges and schools.
- Greeting cards themselves are part of a world-leading British creative industry worth over £1.5bn to the UK economy, at the forefront of innovative design and delivering important export revenue to the UK.
- Consumers in the UK, spent over £1.5 billion on single greeting cards, excluding packs and boxes of cards and the British send more cards per person than any other nation.
- Greeting cards build relationships. Sending and receiving a greeting card creates a strong connection and the GCA's members facilitates and celebrates positive communication between people of all backgrounds.
- The GCA's purpose is to ensure the wellbeing of the greeting card industry and to promote the absolute joy of sending and receiving a well-chosen card. Its mission is to passionately support the growth and promotion of the greeting card industry and its vision is for everyone to feel connected by the sending and receiving of greeting cards.