

Market opening timetable

Postcomm was responsible for setting the timetable that led to the opening of the UK mail sector for full competition on 1 January 2006. Since then, licensed postal operators have been able to compete fully in all parts of the mail market, bringing choice to customers for the first time in Royal Mail's 350-year history.

Key dates:

- **2002.** Initial market opening timetable published, suggesting a three-stage approach to liberalisation. Full market opening planned for 2007.
- **January 2004.** First "Competitive Market Review" published, setting out how the market was developing, explaining trends and asking for views on the main barriers to entry.
- **First quarter 2004.** Extensive market research survey of mail customers, gathering their views on competition and how it should progress.
- **5 May 2004.** Consultation letter issued to stakeholders, asking for views on the state of the market and barriers to entry, as well as the prospects for further competition.
- **May-September 2004.** Discussions with a variety of stakeholders around the UK, including Royal Mail, Postwatch, postal operators, mail customers and postal sector trade unions.
- **20 September 2004.** Revised market opening proposals published.
- **September-December 2004.** Further discussions on market opening with stakeholders around the UK.
- **20 December 2004.** Deadline for responses to our revised market opening proposals.
- **18 February 2005.** Decision to bring forward full market opening to 1 January 2006 announced.
- **1 January 2006.** Full market opening.



Useful links

- **www.psc.gov.uk** – Postcomm’s website, for further information on all aspects of the postal market, including more information on the consultation processes leading to the development of Postcomm’s market opening timetable and full details of the state of the newly-opened market.

Please contact Postcomm for a full list of titles available in this series.

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Postcomm is the independent regulator for postal services in the UK. This is one of a series of fact sheets designed to provide background information on key issues in the postal services sector. Contact us at 6 Hercules Road, London, SE1 7DB. **Tel** 020 7593 2100, **Email** info@psc.gov.uk

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