

10th December 2004

Southchurch
SOUTHEND ON SEA
Essex
SS2 4NP

Nina Rutter
Postcomm
Hercules House
6 Hercules Road
LONDON
SE1 7DB

Dear Ms Rutter,

I am writing to give my views regarding the document '**Licenses under the Postal Services Act 2000: Licensing framework in a fully open market**'.

I am confident that Postcomm will deal with the applications, licence and monitoring fairly and professionally and so have little comment to make on the content regarding these issues, however I am very interested the 'light touch' regulation mentioned in this document.

While I would agree that competition is normally beneficial to customers and the economy, I am also of the opinion that Royal Mail need some sort of protection to ensure that they do not become a tax burden, and so that they are able to continue to provide the Universal Service Obligation which is essential to all businesses, especially small businesses and still to a reasonable degree to the general public.

Licensed Royal Mail competitors so far appear to be interested only in bulk mailers, which from a business point of view is fair enough as that is where the profit is. However, this leaves everyone else little option but to rely on Royal Mail.

My wish is that while opening up the postal market, Postcomm will bear in mind that all customers should be entitled to benefit from these changes, not just bulk mailers. Therefore I hope as much attention will be devoted to pursuing the maintaining of affordable pricing and improving quality of service from Royal Mail.

I hope my views will be given some consideration.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr JR Yates