



# Branch Secretaries' Circular

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Dear Branch Secretary

**SUBPOSTMASTERS TO CALL ON NEW GOVERNMENT TO  
SAFEGUARD POST OFFICES AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Please see the attached press release which the Federation issued on 12 May 2010 for your information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'G. Thomson'.

**GEORGE THOMSON**  
General Secretary

Press release/diary date  
May 12, 2010

### **Subpostmasters to call on new government to safeguard post offices at Annual Conference**

- Conference to call for immediate government pledge on support for network
- Members will warn of 3,000 closures unless pay cut decision overturned

HUNDREDS of subpostmasters will gather at their Annual Conference next week to call on the newly formed government to pledge its support for the post office network amid fears of further closures.

Members of the National Federation of Subpostmasters (NFSP) will demand an immediate commitment on establishing new work for post offices from both central and local government.

The NFSP Conference in Torquay will convene just days after negotiations with Post Office Ltd (POL) on subpostmasters' pay broke down.

The NFSP has vowed to vigorously fight a decision by POL to impose a pay cut on subpostmasters, claiming it is unfair for the company to penalise subpostmasters while simultaneously awarding at least £10 million in bonuses to senior managers and preparing to announce profits of £62 million.

NFSP General Secretary George Thomson will open the Conference by saying he is keen to work with newly appointed ministers to help safeguard the future of the post office network.

But he will also send a clear message that up to 3,000 subpostmasters may be forced to close their office unless they are supported with better pay from POL, and more work from central and local government.

Mr Thomson said: "It is a matter of grave concern that we begin our Annual Conference with the very real threat of mass post office closures due to a lack of new work for our members and now the unacceptable decision by POL to cut subpostmasters' pay.

"I will be seeking to establish a positive relationship with this new coalition government to urgently generate the new products and services that are essential if the network is to survive. However we cannot ignore the challenges that lie ahead.

"I expect to hear a commitment from government that it acknowledges the vital importance of post offices to thousands of communities up and down the country, and that it plans to do all it can to sustain them.

"For the benefit of the nation, the new government must think 'Post Office first' when it is awarding new contracts and renewing existing ones."

Subpostmasters from across the country will be travelling to the Conference, to be held on May 17, 18, and 19, where among those speaking will be the newly appointed Managing Director of Post Office Ltd, David Smith.

Ends