

DANNY KRUGER MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Simon Thompson
By email

Our Ref: DK14643

18 August 2023

Dear Mr Thompson

I am writing further to my emails of 17th April and 15th May regarding Tidworth's sorting office. I am very disappointed not to have received a response to either of these. I understand the former Mayor of Tidworth, Cllr Mark Connolly, has also not received any clarification from you on this matter since first raising it in April, other than being informed recently of the confirmed closure.

In my initial correspondence I set out my firm objections to the plan to close Tidworth's sorting office and relocate its services to the existing sorting office in Andover. I am dismayed to hear from a number of my constituents that these plans have now been confirmed to staff, although I note I am yet to receive any formal confirmation of this from Royal Mail.

This decision, which has not included any form of consultation with myself, the local councillors or residents, will drastically impact my constituents in Tidworth and Shipton Bellinger. For some residents a trip to Andover will require two bus journeys each way, and this will also particularly impact soldiers and service families living in the area. The civilian population and those 'inside the wire' in Tidworth reached just over 12,000 people in the last census in 2021 and has since increased due to further house building and Army rebasing. I am now repeating the request made in my letter of April 17th, and asking you to confirm whether military families are included in the figures considered when deciding whether to close a service.

I understand that when the postal service in Ludgershall was transferred to Andover the residents in Ludgershall noticed a significant drop in services. I fear the residents of Tidworth and Perham Down are now facing the same outcome. I'm also concerned for those working in the Tidworth sorting office, particularly if they are asked to relocate to Andover and unable to travel.

I am calling on you to postpone any formal decision on the closure of Tidworth sorting office while some form of consultation is carried out, and awaiting your response on how you have considered the unique way this closure will impact those living behind the wire in Tidworth.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danny Kruger', with a horizontal line underneath.

Danny Kruger
MP for the Devizes Constituency

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