



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

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By email: Richard Peterson (request-200819-5bb97e51@whatdotheyknow.com)

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21 May 2014

Dear Mr Peterson

This is in response to your further email of 1 May 2014 where you asked:

"Has a minister met with Heart of England Co-operative over this closure?"

"Has a minister visited Heart of England Co-operative store in Coventry city centre?"

Your email does not contain a request for recorded information held by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS). Where a 'request for information' does not contain a specific request for copies of information held by BIS, the Department deals with the request as a 'normal course of business' enquiry rather than a formal request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Minister has not met a representative of Heart of England Co-operative and neither have they received a request for a meeting. Nor has a Minister visited the Heart of England Co-operative store in Coventry.

As previously explained to you, the Government, as shareholder, does not play a role in operational matters relating to individual post office branches operating within the Post Office network. Such matters are the responsibility of the management of Post Office Ltd.

The Post Office network comprises around 11,700 branches and the contractual arrangements between the subpostmasters and partners that provide services on behalf of Post Office Ltd are a commercial and operational matter between those parties. The Government plays no role in these contractual arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

**Post Office Network Team
Shareholder Executive**