

## Your response

Question	Your response
<p><b>Question 1: Do you agree that we have identified the correct aims, supporting principles and features of the USO? Do you consider that these should continue to be respected as far as possible when assessing potential changes to the USO?</b></p>	<p>Confidential? – Y / N</p> <p>See answer to Question 8</p>
<p><b>Question 2: Do you agree with our assessment of the direction of change in postal needs of residential (including vulnerable) users and SMEs? Are there other factors relevant to their future demand which we have not considered?</b></p>	<p>Confidential? – Y / N</p> <p>See answer to Question 8</p>
<p><b>Question 3: Do you agree with our assessment of the bulk mail market? Are there other factors relevant to its future evolution which we have not considered?</b></p>	<p>Confidential? – Y / N</p> <p>See answer to Question 8</p>
<p><b>Question 4: Are there specific events/changes that could trigger a significant change in demand for large mail users, including public services?</b></p>	<p>Confidential? – Y / N</p> <p>See answer to Question 8</p>
<p><b>Question 5: Do you agree with our proposed approach to estimating the financial burden of the USO?</b></p>	<p>Confidential? – Y / N</p> <p>See answer to Question 8</p>
<p><b>Question 6: Do you agree with our considerations regarding the unfairness of the financial burden of the USO?</b></p>	<p>Confidential? – Y / N</p> <p>See answer to Question 8</p>

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<p><b>Question 7: Do you agree with our considerations regarding the impact of the financial burden of the USO?</b></p>	<p>Confidential? – Y / N</p> <p>See answer to Question 8</p>
<p><b>Question 8: Do you agree with our analysis of the different options available to change the USO and the impact of those changes on residential (including vulnerable) users, SMEs and bulk mail users? If not, please explain why and set out any option(s) which we have not considered.</b></p>	<p>Confidential? – N</p> <p>I am chair of the UK Newborn Screening Laboratory Network which represents all newborn blood spot screening laboratories in the UK. We are very concerned with options for reform of the universal postal service, in either delaying the time taken for post to arrive or changing the delivery days from six to five or three. Every baby in the UK is offered newborn blood spot screening on day 5 of life for 9 rare but serious conditions. The NHS recommends Newborn Screening because it can improve health and prevent severe disability or even death. The Newborn Screening standards for the NHS Newborn Blood Spot screening programme state that all samples must arrive within the screening laboratory as soon as possible after the sample has been taken. The screening programme relies on timely receipt of samples and they should be received in the lab within 3 days of being taken. This enables the lab to analyse the sample at the earliest opportunity and reduces the risk of sample deterioration due to prolonged dispatch. The timeliness of delivery of the samples is vital in ensuring that all infants receive a timely diagnosis. The risks of any transport delay include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• late referral of serious conditions</li> <li>• delayed treatment of potentially life-threatening symptoms</li> <li>• unnecessary repeat sampling, causing anxiety for parents and distress to babies</li> </ul> <p>Most blood spot samples are sent to the laboratory by Royal Mail or courier. Areas with large rural populations may have difficulties in organising courier services, where midwives would have to drop off samples to remote locations in order for the courier to collect the samples. Therefore it is essential that</p>

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	these areas have an efficient Royal Mail service running on 6 days a week.
<b>Question 9: Which option(s) do you consider would be most appropriate to address the challenges we have identified, while also ensuring that users' needs are adequately met?</b>	Confidential? – Y / N
<b>Question 10: Do you have any other views about how the USO should evolve to meet users' needs?</b>	Confidential? – Y / N

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