

**Corri Wilson MP**  
House of Commons  
Westminster  
London  
SW1A 0AA



**Corri Wilson MP**  
45a Fort Street  
Ayr  
KA7 1DG  
01292 288623

Damian Hinds MP  
Minister of State for Employment  
Department for Work and Pensions  
Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
London  
SW1H 9NA

17 February 2017  
Re: ZA4709/LC

Regarding your letter, dated 27 January, advising of the proposal to close the current DWP site at Killoch House in Cumnock, which lies in our Westminster and Scottish Parliament constituencies.

This announcement is extremely worrying for Cumnock and the staff currently working in Killoch House. We have met with trade union representatives, and have both been contacted by constituents who currently work at the site. While there has been some discussion regarding possible relocation to other sites, people are understandably concerned about their futures, the possibility of redundancies, and the knock-on impact on local businesses.

It is our understanding that Killoch House is home to a skilled workforce that has expertise in working a variety of caseloads that only very few sites can match, and was recently awarded a DWP Excellence award for organisational and operational performance. The current staff of 87 are puzzled as to the rationale for the proposal to close this office, given that the CMG Director recently visited the site and stated that CMG has work earmarked for them for 4 or 5 years.

Staff have been informed that there may be the option for them to relocate to DWP offices in Ayr and/or Kilmarnock, but there has been no indication that there is space at either site for them. The fractured break up of the office staff will impact on delivery of the clearance of work, and public transport in the area means that some staff will find a commute to either Ayr or Kilmarnock extremely challenging.

As it is clear there is work available for the skilled team at Cumnock to undertake, and the huge impact the loss of more than 80 employees will have on the local economy, we would be grateful for more detail on your plans to shut this site. We would appreciate the economic costing for running Cumnock site and a comparison with the estimated Excess fares costing for 3/5 years for the workforce relocating to either Ayr or Kilmarnock. We would also welcome information on the maximum available numbers for relocating staff to these alternative sites.

[corri.wilson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:corri.wilson.mp@parliament.uk)

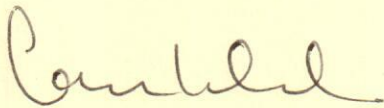
Twitter: @CorriWilsonSNP

facebook: Corri Wilson MP

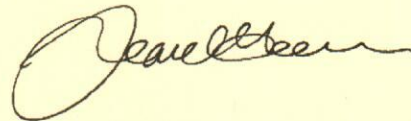
Cumnock is an already socially deprived area, which has been hit hard with the decline of coal mining. The DWP is one of the highest employers in the area, and this closure will have a serious impact on an area where there are no replacement jobs of the same ilk. Many local businesses depend on the workforce for their custom. With this in mind it would be useful to know if the option of relocating Cumnock's JobCentre Plus to Killoch House, and having one dual site in the town, has been examined. The current JCP site does not have disabled access and, as the rollout of Universal Credit to the area is imminent, it would seem that this would be a solution which would counter this problem before it develops.

We look forward to your response.

Regards



Corri Wilson MP  
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock



Jeane Freeman MSP  
Carrick, Cumnock & Doon Valley