

For Immediate Release: 23 March 2017

JEANE FREEMAN MSP & CORRI WILSON MP DEMAND URGENT MEETING ON LATEST BANK CLOSURES

The announcement by Royal Bank of Scotland that it plans to close its branches in Girvan, Cumnock and Mauchline has been condemned by Jeane Freeman MSP and Corri Wilson MP, who are demanding an immediate meeting with senior staff at RBS.

Jeane Freeman said:

“Banking services in Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley are being removed at an alarming rate, and it is devastating news that RBS plan to shut their Cumnock, Mauchline and Girvan branches.

“RBS think that the offer of mobile banking somehow compensates for their decision. But when they shut their branch in Dalmellington, their replacement mobile banking service has no disabled access, so customers with mobility issues are forced to do their banking in the car park. Not only that but they point blank refuse to take any steps to improve even this meagre service.

“So, RBS customers the length and breadth of this constituency now find that their nearest, accessible branch will be in either Ayr or Kilmarnock. This is a shocking disregard of its customers by a bank which has received huge amounts of public money to keep it afloat when its own reckless practices threatened not only its survival but the hard earned money and savings of its customers.

“And the removal of these banking services shows scant regard for local business and a rural economy on which RBS has made profit and now wants to walk away from.”

“Corri Wilson and I are demanding an immediate meeting with RBS Senior Staff.”

Corri Wilson said;

“Yet again, the state-owned Royal Bank of Scotland is letting down rural communities. By using the same old excuse that closures are driven by increased use in technology, RBS fails to understand the challenges that its customers in outlying areas face when attempting to access digital technology. Many of the people affected by this closure will struggle to use online banking due to inadequate broadband coverage, and will already have been hit by closures in Dalmellington and Maybole.

“Although basic banking at a Post Office is welcome, it won’t compensate for the loss of a bank, and mobile branches are nothing more than a smokescreen to hide the real damage of closing branches. RBS needs to reflect the needs of the communities it serves, and stop shutting branches to make up for the £10 billion paid out for mis-selling Personal Protection Insurance and the currency rigging scandal.”

ENDS