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Government accused of ‘scandalous’ waste of money over Post Office closures

The revelation that consultants are being paid more than £300 an hour to advise the Government on how to shut 2,500 Post Offices across the country has been described as “scandalous” by Kris Hopkins, the Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Keighley and Ilkley.

In a written Parliamentary answer, Postal Affairs Minister Pat McFadden has revealed that consultants advising on the closures plan were being paid a “combined average hourly rate” of £318 an hour.

But he refused to provide a breakdown of hourly rates paid to individual advisers as it was “commercially confidential information.”

However Cllr Hopkins, who has led a high profile Conservative campaign against the closure of four Post Offices in his Keighley and Ilkley constituency, said he believed this spending was adding insult to injury.

He said:

“This is a scandalous waste of taxpayers’ money and is a further insult to the many thousands of people – particularly older residents and those with a disability – who rely so much on the services provided by their local Post Office.

“Rather than frittering away vast amounts of money on deciding how to destroy our Post Office network, the Government should be concentrating its efforts on providing a more viable business framework that will assist our existing Post Offices to prosper long into the future.

“Labour Ministers may have given up on Post Offices but my Conservative colleagues and I certainly have not.”

ENDS