

Procedures for handling/charging Bulk Postings

Since 13 April 1999, individuals or organizations wishing to send correspondence to the Houses of Parliament are advised that second class postage must be paid on each item of mail. Payment can be made either by putting second class stamps on each item, by franking or by forwarding a cheque to the above address (made payable to 'Post Office Counters Ltd') for the total amount of the posting.

Why has a charge been introduced for sending mail to the Houses of Parliament?

As I am sure you will appreciate many individuals and organisations wish to lobby Members of Parliament and Peers on a very wide range of issues and many do so by sending mail to Parliament. The Palace of Westminster probably receives in excess of one million such letters annually.

Members and Peers require delivery of their mail to a variety of addresses by the fastest means possible. Since they are often away from the House, in their constituencies or on official visits, a delivery service must take account of the whole scope of their movements. Deliveries are made in accordance with Members' and Peers' latest instructions. Some choose to have mail delivered to them in the House others to external addresses, in which case the mail is forwarded on.

No internal delivery service could cope with this demand and therefore the Post Office, acting on behalf of the House, makes a charge for its services. Since lobbying is a political activity, this charge can not be borne by Parliament and ultimately the taxpayer.

If you require further clarification of the procedures for posting mail to Members of Parliament and Peers', please contact the Parliamentary Post Office Helpline on 020 7219 4639.