

Understanding your branch closure

Santander, 423-425 Newtownards Road, Belfast, County Antrim, BT4 1AT

This branch will be closing on 20 June 2019. We'd like to explain why, and help you understand how you can continue banking with us.

Background to our approach

Over the last five years, we've continually invested in our branch network. All of our busiest branches across the UK have been refurbished and we've introduced improved services for our customers, including our new touch screen cash machines. Increasingly however, more of our customers are changing the way they manage their money. As well as using our branches, more and more people find it convenient to do their day to day banking using online, mobile or telephone banking. As a result, customers are visiting our branches less.

Given this change in our customer's requirements we've undertaken a comprehensive review of our branch network. This review incorporates analysis and consideration of many factors including where each of our branches are located and how they are used by our customers. Our branch network remains very important to us and our customers and we're committed to continuing to invest in and develop our branches. However we will be focusing our investment in those locations where our customers need and use our branches the most.

We can assure you that we don't take the decision to close any branch lightly and we assess each branch individually to consider the potential impact for customers and the alternative options available to bank locally.

We hope this leaflet helps to provide more information about our decision to close Belfast Newtownards Road branch.



Branch assessment

Before reaching the decision to close this branch, a comprehensive internal review was undertaken. Our analysis and considerations included:

- the way our Belfast Newtownards Road customers are choosing to bank with us
- the availability and proximity of additional Santander branches in surrounding areas
- the availability of alternative ways to bank with Santander
- access to alternative ways to bank in the local area such as the Post Office and cash machines
- the level of facilities provided in the branch
- property considerations such as expiry of a lease for the branch premises.

As a result of our assessment and following careful consideration, we have taken the difficult decision to close Belfast Newtownards Road branch on 20 June 2019.

How customers use the branch



92%

of customers transacting at Belfast Newtownards Road branch already use a variety of ways to complete their banking



39%

of Belfast Newtownards Road branch customers also use an additional Santander branch



55%

of customers have transacted using our Online, Mobile or Telephone Banking services

Alternative local banking services



Banks/Building Societies

Ulster Bank
Archers Retail Park, Connswater, Belfast,
County Antrim BT5 4AF



Cash machines (Nearest free to use cash machines)

Ulster Bank Archers Retail Park, Connswater, Belfast, County Antrim BT5 4AF	Sinclairs 58 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, County Antrim BT4 3EN
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To find alternative free cash machines
you can use the ATM Link Locator:

www.link.co.uk/atm-locator



Post Office

323 Beersbridge Road, Belfast,
County Antrim BT5 5DY




If you have a current account you can
do your everyday banking at your local
Post Office: pay in cash and cheques or
withdraw money from your account.

Visit postoffice.co.uk/everydaybanking
for more information or find your local
Post Office branch at [postoffice.co.uk/
branchfinder](http://postoffice.co.uk/branchfinder)

Ways to bank with Santander



Closest Santander branch

Belfast Royal Avenue 6 Royal Avenue, Belfast, County Antrim BT1 1DA	1.8  miles	Yes  Bus	No  Train	Opening hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am-5pm Wednesday 10am-5pm Saturday 9am-4pm
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You can use any Santander branch. For alternative branches and their opening hours please search our branch locator: branchlocator.santander.com

Our branch team can help you explore different ways of banking with Santander



Mobile Banking

Download our secure Mobile Banking app or visit santander.co.uk/mobilebanking



Online Banking

To sign up for Online Banking, visit santander.co.uk/onlinebanking



Cash machines

Access 24/7 services at our cash machines.



Telephone Banking

Call **0800 9 123 123**

Monday to Friday: 8am to 8pm

Saturday to Sunday: 8am to 6pm

Outside of these hours you can bank through our automated service 24/7.



Post Office

Pay in cash and cheques or withdraw money from your account.

Supporting you

Following our announcement to close Santander's branch at Belfast Newtonards Road we have been contacting customers and members of the local community to communicate our decision, understand any concerns and to make sure we provide any additional support required locally.

- We wrote to 21,661 customers to notify them of the closure, including details of alternative ways to bank with Santander and where to find our impact assessment.
- We also notified community representatives in Belfast Newtonards Road, including the local Member of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly.
- The Belfast Newtonards Road branch team has spoken to customers about the alternative ways to access their accounts, offering appointments to discuss options and support with the setting-up of telephone, online and mobile banking.
- Posters and leaflets have been available in branch and online, advising customers of the planned closure date and the range of alternative ways to bank with Santander.
- The local Post Office representative has been advised of the closure. All Santander customers who have a Personal or Business current account can use Post Office branches for cash withdrawals, balance enquiries, cash and cheque deposits. To make cheque deposits, paying in slips and envelopes are required. Full details are available at [santander.co.uk/uk/help-support/ways-to-bank/banking-at-your-post-office](https://www.santander.co.uk/uk/help-support/ways-to-bank/banking-at-your-post-office).
- Accessibility of neighbouring Santander branches and facilities including step free access have been assessed prior to the decision to close this branch.

Community Feedback

Following our announcement 13 responses were received from the customers and community groups we wrote to. The main themes were:

- Overall disappointment at the decision to close the branch
- Concern about the additional travel needed to visit other branches and cash machines
- Concern for elderly customers and those with disabilities
- Customers who do not wish to bank digitally

We have undertaken the following activities in response to the key areas of concern:

- We are committed to offering our customers a variety of ways to bank locally with Santander, including telephone, online or mobile banking and the Post Office. Using other Santander branches is just one possible option for customers.
- The Belfast Newtonards Road branch team has been completely focused on helping customers who are affected by the closure and has provided additional support to ensure customers understand the alternatives available. The team has also proactively contacted any elderly and registered disabled customers to offer additional help or support.
- For customers who are unable or do not wish to access online services, all Santander business, current account and savings account card holders can also use all Post Office branches for cash and cheque deposits, withdrawals and to check their account balance. We also have Telephony Advisors who are available to support customers with account management. The teams are available to assist 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 6pm Saturday- Sundays. You can reach them by calling **0800 9 123 123**. We are introducing our elderly and registered disabled customers to a new secure way of accessing Telephone banking where passwords are no longer required.

Next Steps

Belfast Newtonards Road branch will close on 20 June 2019. This decision was not taken lightly and we understand the impact the closure will have and continue to support our customers at this time.

Customers can gain support ongoing for any queries relating to the branch closure from our dedicated UK based helpline, **0800 085 0879**. We're available Monday to Friday 8am-8pm and Saturday 8am-4pm or alternatively you can email us at CommunityEngagement@santander.co.uk.

Glossary of terms

Transaction/transacted

A payment in or out of an account at the branch counter or cash machine.

How customers use the branch

Includes all customers transactions between April and September 2018. Digital or telephone usage includes customers who have completed a payment online or using Telephone Banking.

Alternative branches

Distances reflect Google Maps. Accurate as at time of print.

Range of community representatives

May include local Members of Parliament, Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and Northern Ireland Assembly; Councillors; local representatives of groups such as Citizens Advice, Age UK, Chamber of Commerce, or any local groups or charities closely connected to the branch.

Summary of feedback

Two weeks before the branch closure we'll publish online an overview of responses and any complaints received from customers or the community including our responses and actions taken.