

Members' Briefing

REVENUE & CUSTOMS GROUP

To: **All Members**

cc: **Branch Secretaries, Group Executive Committee, Equality Chairs, VOAC** (for info)

Can this Briefing be circulated via HMRC IT systems: **YES**

Website: **YES**

Action to be taken: **For the attention of all members**

Date: **25 January 2022**

Ref: **R&C/MB/004/22**

BUILDING OUR FUTURE UPDATE: Portsmouth and East Kilbride Retained

- *Portsmouth Retained as 14th Regional Centre*
- *East Kilbride Retained as Phase 2 of Glasgow Regional Centre*
- *PCS Welcomes News*

Today, HMRC has announced plans for a new regional centre in Portsmouth.

The department has also confirmed that East Kilbride will be the location for the second phase of Glasgow Regional Centre.

Portsmouth

Portsmouth will be retained as a long-term location for HMRC, the 14th Regional Centre of the department.

The presence in the city means that our members can stay and build their careers with HMRC.

PCS is delighted that Portsmouth will be a new regional centre location. It's excellent news that Portsmouth will be a long-term strategic location for HMRC, and members can build career development and opportunities for teams located in Hampshire.

We pay tribute to our Portsdown Vectis Branch, who have campaigned for the future of Portsmouth alongside other branches and wider groups for many years.

The HMRC BOF Location announcements on 15 November 2015 had wide-ranging consequences for all staff within the department.

In the south of England, the HMRC plans were previously that the only locations in which the department would retain a presence were Worthing & Dover, with both of these designated as Specialist Sites. No other presence was planned, leaving a yawning gap between the Regional centres in Croydon & Bristol.

PCS made it clear to HMRC that this was a risky situation which invited exploitation and increased the likelihood of non-compliance.

We believe that community and local member activity has helped to influence changes to the HMRC BOF location plans in the South.

HMRC are weighing up retaining Lynx House or moving operations to another location in Portsmouth and PCS will consult closely with the department over this decision.

East Kilbride

HMRC has openly planned for an office to supplement the Glasgow Regional Centre when the transitional site at Queensway House in East Kilbride closed in 2025-26 ('Phase 2' of the Glasgow Regional Centre). The department has now decided this office will be based in East Kilbride, either at Queensway House or elsewhere.

HMRC believes that basing the office in East Kilbride makes the best sense for our colleagues, business and customers. PCS agrees this makes sense for our members.

PCS also pays tribute to our branch in East Kilbride who have conducted the 'Stay in EK' campaign since 2015. Local politicians from all parties, union officials and businesses united to advocate the retention of jobs in the town.

Over 2000 East Kilbride jobs were on the line but another 2000 people could have been indirectly affected due to the impact of HMRC quitting East Kilbride.

The local newspaper – East Kilbride News – embraced the campaign, using the Stay in EK logo in its masthead and running regular features. Staying in East Kilbride will represent value for money for the taxpayer – and provide long-term security for our members and the town. Just as in Portsmouth, PCS will consult closely with HMRC over whether the current Queensway House office is retained or a new building is obtained in East Kilbride

PCS View

PCS welcomes the willingness on behalf of HMRC to be flexible with its plans. The union has long-since provided an alternative vision to the closure of tax offices and the announcements today are in-line with that vision. In the most uncertain of times, now more than ever we need civil servants to deal with the ongoing and increased demand on our public services.

Any members who are affected should get in touch with the [author of this briefing](#).

Join PCS today

If you've read this briefing and you aren't yet a member of PCS, then [join today](#).

Get involved!

Remember, HMRC applies restrictions on the content of union circulars distributed using the department's email system, so make sure that you stay in touch with your union. You can find your membership number in your latest email digest from PCS.

If you haven't already done so, let PCS have your personal/non-work email address and your mobile phone number. We'll only use it to keep you informed about PCS matters. You can update your details

securely online by registering for [PCS Digital](#) or by contacting your local PCS rep, and asking them to enter your details securely on the PCS Organising App.

JOHN DAVIDSON
Deputy Group Secretary

DAVE HANSFORD
GEC Member

LORNA MERRY
Group President

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