

Sanitary Facilities: No sanitary facilities are to be available to customers for security and maintenance reasons. Sanitary facilities for staff are limited and available space and services positions do not provide a practical ability to create a full section M compliant WC compartment.

Building Services Controls: No building services controls are to be available to customers. Therefore these will not be located to be accessible to persons other than authorised staff.

Fire Protocols: The premises will be provided with a fire detection and alarm system and compliant means of escape. The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 requires that the premises operator will carry out a fire and escape risk assessment which will provide for a method statement for the evacuation of disabled persons and wheelchair users in the event of a fire, and at all times there will be a member of staff present who has been briefed upon the FRA and is acting as fire marshal.

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13F/2562 - Speke Post Office, 4 South Parade, L24: Proposed Change of Use with Minor External Alterations.

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

Statutory Compliance: The building is an existing post office counter unit designed for public access but at a time when provisions for disabled persons were less detailed and specific than at present. It is the intention of the designers and Client that the premises, as far as possible, will be brought up to standards which comply with the Equality Act 2010 and Section M of the Building Regulations.

CSR: Costcutter (the premises operator), as a national organisation, are aware of their Corporate Social Responsibilities and strive to ensure that the stores operated in their name promote and maintain CSR action and Impact targets for engagement with the community, customers facilitated by accessible stores and associated premises.

Access from Street: The existing adopted pavement to the street, and access from the street to the building perimeter are reasonably level and not within the remit of the project to adjust or modify in any way.

Access into building: The new entrance position is to be accessed from existing paved areas adjusted in level and pitch to provide an overall access at a gradient of not greater than 1 in 16. The point of access into the building will be level for a distance of 1.25 metres externally and level internally with no threshold which would provide an impediment for ambulant or wheelchair users.

Entrance Door: The entrance door is to be a power operated laterally sliding metal framed glazed door which will operate upon a proximity sensor set to detect approaching customers at both standing height and those seated in wheelchairs. For security reasons this detection system will be switched to an on-demand external access button for disabled persons during evening and early morning trading hours when till-counter staff can see all those approaching the store for access. The access button will be set at a height to be accessible for ambulant disabled persons and wheelchair users and will be clearly signed. A matching access button for the power operated door will be located internally and stock/display units will be arranged so as not to inhibit access by disabled persons. Glazing to the door will be set at a height to facilitate through vision for wheelchair users.

Internal Circulation: The premises are a small retail area and space is limited, however all aisles between sales gondolas will be set wide enough to facilitate access by wheelchair bound persons and space for turning/manoeuvring a wheelchair will be provided at aisle ends. Some intermediate break-throughs between display units may not be wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair however the number of these will be limited.

Product Placement: It is difficult in a small retail unit to ensure that product placement provides all essential products to be directly accessible to wheelchair users however placement will direct essential products to levels accessible to wheelchair users wherever reasonably possible. In the event that this is not possible then staff will assist wheelchair users as required.

Reduced Height Counter Section: One number till point will be provided with a lower level counter surface at prescribed height where packing/bagging areas, till displays and card pin-pad equipment will be easily accessible to wheelchair users. Space provision will be such that wheelchair users will not obstruct the passage of other customers.