

POST OFFICE MONOPOLY

Mail story today, 25 July.

John Woodrow advises:

Story inaccurate.

1. Government has not decided to end monopoly in the letter post. On 2 July Sir Keith said that if postal services were not improved the Post Office's monopoly would be reviewed. Reports on "possible modifications, their practicality and their implications" had been requested by S of S before the end of the year.
2. On Monday, 23 July, Sir Keith was asked in Questions about the structure of the Post Office and said he found compelling the arguments in the Carter Report for splitting the Post Office. "We are moving towards a conclusion in the issue. We are not contemplating the sale of the Post Office". Sir Keith had said nothing about ending the telecommunications monopoly since he was in opposition but it is possible that some bits of the Post Office sales could be hived off and John Woodrow will give us a precise form of words as soon as he can get it.

HGR