

HSBC CLOSE

Electronic Payment Services Centre in Livingston (SCOTLAND)

Unite – Amicus Section has been advised of the decision to close the Electronic Payment Services Centre in Livingston (Scotland) with the loss of 164 jobs.

Unite has slammed this decision as **unacceptable and unnecessary!** The main Business rationale is that globalising the majority of work carried out at Livingston, would be cost effective. HSBC informed Unite it will make a cost saving and will also save on cost efficiencies over the next 8 years. Also the lease on the building expires in June 2009.

Unite were advised that over the next 9-12 months HSBC will wind down its Electronic Payment Services operation resulting in 164 jobs being lost, the majority being off-shored to the Global sites in Hyderabad, Malaysia and Guangzhou the remaining jobs will be sent to other Payment and Commercial sites spread across London, Sheffield, Birmingham, Worthing and Manchester.

One of the reasons for the closure is that HSBC is to create a 'Centre of Excellence' for Payment Services. Unite requests that due consideration be given to locate their 'Centre of Excellence' in Livingston. We have a highly skilled and competent work force currently carrying out this work. HSBC informed us that the decision of where to locate the 'Centres of Excellence' had been made at Group level in 2006, breaching our Global Agreement.

Unite believe the decision to close Livingston will have a hugely detrimental affect on the local community and economy. HSBC received a Scottish Executive grant to create 260 jobs and 18 months later the 'World's Local Bank' is pulling out of a small town like Livingston.

This is a fundamental u-turn of HSBC's commitment to Scotland.

HSBC identified a number of job roles within the Premier Department in Edinburgh but after reviewing the positions HSBC have said that they are unlikely to constitute Suitable Alternative Employment. All Employees will therefore be made Compulsory Redundant when the Livingston site closes unless you find Suitable Alternative Employment within the Group.

Unite requested HSBC find new work to be brought into Livingston so the site remains open. The company say it has asked a different part of the Group who advised that there was no business case to create another small site. Unite have totally and utterly opposed this decision and cannot and will not accept our Members being made Compulsory Redundant. Unite do not believe or accept the Business rationale behind this decision.

Unite will contact the Local MP for Livingston and make representations asking for his political support from both the Scottish Parliament and English Government to stop this unnecessary closure.

What happens now?

Unite will launch a campaign to stop this unnecessary closure. We urge HSBC to reconsider the closure and keep HSBC in Livingston.

Unite request that you, as a Member, write to your Local MP and MSP asking for their support in your campaign to retain the jobs within Livingston.