

Post Office branding A growing number of Post Office branches are being re-branded with the new red and white livery of Post Office Ltd, replacing the red, yellow and green colour scheme used for the past few years. The change is also to be reflected in the colour of stamp vending machines, which are reverting to the more traditional red colour instead of the relatively short-lived turquoise scheme. The first sites to have the new overlays fitted to the outdoor 'Thomas Automatics 6002s' stamp vending machines (SVMs) were Wakefield, completed at 09:57 on 18 November 2008 and Pontefract, which followed at 10:58 on the same date. None of the internal stamp vending machines, which are also in turquoise, have so far been altered back to red and I do not have any information as to whether conversions will be carried out ●



Stamp vending machine in red-and-white Post Office livery

Irish SVMs The Irish Post Office is now using the same Thomas Automatics model of stamp vending machine as found outside some 500 UK Post Office branches, but they are generally coloured green in keeping with An Post's corporate branding scheme. The one exception is at GPO Dublin in O'Connell Street, where the SVM has a special antique metal bronze front to match the nearby inset post boxes.

Irish stamp specialist Brian Warren kindly provided details of these machines, together with a photograph of the Tallaght location to share with *Bulletin* readers. He wrote: 'A new stamp vending machine which dispenses both 5.50 and 8.20 euro self-adhesive booklets was introduced in late April 2008. To date, I have noted the new machine outside post offices at the GPO Dublin 1; Ballsbridge, Dublin 4; Rathmines, Dublin 6; and at The Square, Tallaght, Dublin 24. I do not know if they exist at any other offices, but do know that I was the first customer to use the machine at the GPO Dublin.'

The new machines replaced machines dispensing 2 euro booklets or, in the case of Ballsbridge, an out of order 4.80 euro booklet, which was never converted to take a 5.50 euro booklet. The machines only accept coins, but do give change. As far as I can recall, they are the first Irish stamp vending machines to give change. This type of SVM is also the first to dispense self-adhesive stamps in Ireland. An Post advised that dampness had affected earlier machines re self-adhesives and thus gummed booklets were used. ●

