

Swapping out your postage stamps



If like me you tend to purchase a supply of postage stamps just before a price increase you may find yourself with a lot of stamps that you won't be able to use. The official date they are no longer valid from is 31st January 2023. You have until **31 July 2023** to use any non-barcoded everyday stamps – those with the Queen's profile on – before they become worthless.

There is a scheme in place to swap them out – if

you go to:

https://www.royalmail.com/sending/barcoded-stamps?iid=HP_M2_3_BARCODEDSTAMPS

You can follow the directions online which state

“How to get a ‘Stamp Swap Out’ form

- **If you have a printer**, you can swap out **up to £200 worth of non-barcoded stamps** by printing out and completing this [Stamp Swap Out PDF](#) Opens in a new windowpdf, 200.48 KB. You can send this back to us free of charge, along with your stamps, by writing on the envelope **Freepost SWAP OUT**. No other address details or postcode are needed.
- **If you don't have access to a printer** you can request a **Stamp Swap Out form to be posted to you** by [completing this form online](#). The instructions for sending back to us will depend on the form you request. 'Stamp Swap Out' forms are also available from the Customer Service Point at your local Delivery Offices (but please note they will only have the forms for the up to £200 option). Or you can call our Customer Experience Team on 03457 740740.

Note: Special Stamps with pictures on and Christmas Stamps without a barcode will continue to be valid and don't need to be swapped out.”

Unfortunately, there's no way to get proof of postage when you send the Freepost envelope. But if you think your stamps have got lost along the way, or you haven't received your new stamps after two weeks, then phone Royal Mail customer services on 03457 740740.

However, Royal Mail advises that those sending Bulk Swap Out forms send them via special delivery. Royal Mail will refund the additional cost to do this with barcoded stamps worth the same amount.

If you want to send the stamps securely then you need to put the full address on the envelope as you can't use any secure service without a postcode. Consider taking a photo of the stamps enclosed beforehand in case they question this .