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# DON'T BETRAY OUR ROYAL MAIL

## Business Secretary warns firm's bosses she WON'T allow £3.5bn sale to 'Czech Sphinx' without guarantees on postal services

By **Jessica Clark, Jason Groves**  
and **Martin Beckford**

**KEMI Badenoch last night warned the Royal Mail she will not allow it to be sold to a foreign buyer unless there are guarantees over the protection of vital services.**

Amid mounting fears over what the proposed £3.5billion takeover by a Czech billionaire will mean, the Business Secretary held crunch talks with the 508-year-old postal service.

She told bosses any deal would have to especially protect the vulnerable, those living in remote areas and small businesses.

Mrs Badenoch also called for cast-iron guarantees that the current six-days-a-week deliveries will be maintained.

But last night campaigners called on the Government to stop the sale altogether, with one declaring: 'It must be blocked, for goodness' sake – it's the Royal Mail.'

While it is understood the Government is not planning to take such drastic action, ministers are determined to extract guarantees from would-be buyer Daniel Kretinsky before the deal goes through.

Politicians and campaigners said the risk to services, jobs and national security must



## Revealed after 60 years, unseen photo of four royal mothers

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With their newborns: Princess Alexandra, Queen Elizabeth, Princess Margaret and the Duchess of Kent