



7 March 2024

Dear Resident,

### **Proposed Junction Improvement Works**

I am writing to you as a resident who lives near to the junction of Southport Road and Ulnes Walton Lane, to ensure that you are aware of a proposal we have put forward as part of the planning application for a new prison at the site of HMPs Garth and Wymott.

Having reviewed options and consulted highways experts, we believe that a change in layout (T-junction to mini roundabout) would improve the safety of this junction.

We have recently submitted a revised junction design to the planning inquiry which includes some of the land around the existing T-Junction to improve the visibility of traffic approaching the junction. The MoJ have exchanged contracts on the land and are in the process of completing the sale. The remainder of the land would be left as it is now. Whilst the appeal is ongoing, the land would likely be leased and used for grazing. We anticipate that this would improve your experience due to increased visibility for motorists and reduced traffic speeds.

Should planning be granted and this junction improvement be carried out, we will work closely with our contractors and Lancashire County Council Highways team to keep you updated and maintain access to properties.

Whilst Ministry of Justice are not presuming a successful outcome at the appeal, we are duty bound to ensure that the appeal is given the best chance of success in order to deliver the much-needed prison places a new prison would provide, and to protect tax-payers investment to the project so far.

For ease, I have enclosed a copy of the Council's notice which has been displayed locally. This includes details of how to comment on the proposal and participate in the Inquiry.

I will provide a further update in due course, however this may not be until a planning decision has been issued for the proposed new prison. Should you have any questions about the proposal you can also contact my team via [psdenquiries@justice.gov.uk](mailto:psdenquiries@justice.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

**James Smith**  
**Programme Director: New Prisons**

# **PUBLIC INQUIRY TO BE REOPENED**

## **TO BE HELD AS A VIRTUAL EVENT**

**on 25 March 2024 at 10:00am**

### **REASON FOR INQUIRY**

Appeal by Ministry of Justice

Relating to the application to Chorley Borough Council

for Hybrid planning application seeking: Outline planning permission (with all matters reserved except for means of access, parking and landscaping) for a new prison (up to 74,531.71 sqm GEA) (Class C2A) within a secure perimeter fence following demolition of existing buildings and structures and together with associated engineering works; Outline planning permission for a replacement boiler house (with all matters reserved except for access); and Full planning permission for a replacement bowling green and club house (Class F2(c))

### **At Land adjacent to HMP Garth and HMP Wymott, Leyland**

In a letter dated 6 April 2023, the Secretary of State confirmed that the remit of the reopened inquiry will be to consider such evidence on highway safety matters identified in his 19 January 2023 letter as the parties shall put forward.

An Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State will hold an Inquiry opening on the date shown above. The Inquiry will be held as a virtual event run by the Inspector in the normal way, but with the parties invited to join via Microsoft Teams.

Documents relating to the appeal can be viewed at the Council offices by prior arrangement or on the Council website application ref: **21/01028/OUTMAJ**. A dedicated webpage for the Inquiry has also been set up: <https://chorley.gov.uk/article/2612/Planning-appeals-HM-Prison-Wymott> where there will be a link to the virtual event and where the main documents that will be referred to can be viewed.

Members of the public may attend the Inquiry and, at the Inspector's discretion, express their views.

If you wish to participate in the Inquiry please contact the Local Planning Authority (email: [dcon@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:dcon@chorley.gov.uk) or telephone: 01257 515151) for details of how to do so.

Where applicable, you can use the internet to see information and to check the progress of cases through GOV.UK. The address of the search page is - <https://www.gov.uk/appeal-planning-inspectorate>

**Planning Inspectorate Reference:** APP/D2320/W/22/3295556

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