

Dear Sir,

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

This regards the public inquiry about the proposed third prison at Ulnes Walton, Lancashire.

Today (18 March 2024), we received notification through the post of the public inquiry to be reopened on 25 March 2024. It is disappointing that this is to be a "virtual" event. Given the significant impact this proposed development will have on locals lives, I would much prefer to see the white of the eyes of the Ministry Of Justice (MoJ) representatives.

I am a regular cyclist (last year, I cycled some 8,500 miles). I choose not to cycle at "peak" times because of the increased risk of an accident due to the much higher volume of traffic on the roads however sometimes it is unavoidable. Peak "working" times is one time to avoid however I have noticed during weekends through traffic significantly increases during the day along Southport Road, Ulnes Walton Lane, New Lane, Lydiate Lane and Leyland Lane.

There are numerous aspects to road traffic safety in Ulnes Walton. Making significant changes to one junction may impact other junctions. The proposed roundabout at the junction between Ulnes Walton Lane and Southport Road is likely to increase the flow of traffic at the junction. This may be detrimental to traffic traveling along Ulnes Walton Lane particularly at the junction between Ulnes Walton Lane and Moss Road. Pedestrians and cyclists at both junctions will be exposed to greater risk of an accident because they will be exposed to an increase in traffic volume plus at the roundabout no "escape" (ie. pavement) has been proposed around it.

All the road safety issues identified during the first inquiry remain extant and the proposed roundabout can only exacerbate traffic issues at other, close by junctions and fail to improve traffic issues along Ulnes Walton Lane.

If permitted, this prison will be a direct neighbour of ours (ie. over our garden fence). At all times through this process, The Ministry Of Justice has failed to act in a reasonable neighbourly manner. (Eg. At the initial virtual consultation, our concerns were whitewashed.) Further, it is disappointing that the Government are opting to force this matter through without proper, informed discussion or consultation with its neighbours about the consequences of such a scheme. The government ought to reconsider alternative sites that are probably more cost effective and have less of an impact on local infrastructure.

Your sincerely,

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