Planning Inspectorate Appeal ref: APP/D232o/W/22/3295556
Planning Application Ref: 21/01028/OUTMAJ

Please note my attached comments regarding the above planning application. As requested I have provided triplicate copies.

Mrs Julie Robb
168 Southport Road
Leyland PR26 8LN

Email julie.robb@sky.com

RECEIVED
29 APR 2022
MAJOR CASEWORK

As I live on Southport Road in Ulnes Walton I am very concerned about the increased level of traffic that will pass my door if the proposal for a 3rd prison goes ahead. It is already difficult to cross the road outside our house at certain times of the day, especially when I'm walking with my grandchildren. It is impossible to walk down Ulnes Walton Lane at any time. I am finding it increasingly difficult to get out of my drive in my car due to the volume and speed of the passing traffic. An increase of 50%, the MoJ estimate, will make these problems much worse. I cannot see provision for extra street lighting, traffic calming measures, pedestrian crossings or footpaths within the proposal. The MoJ anticipate staff travelling from up to 40 miles away. Most of these extra people will pass my door in a car as there is very little public transport in our area. Surely it would be better to site a development of this size close to easy motorway access and existing public transport not down a narrow country lane? In addition to staff needing access there will be an increase in the trades people needed to support this new prison and also visitors for the inmates. As well as the danger of so many vehicles using the local roads am also concerned about the increase in pollution in my garden and surrounds. The MoJ admit that there is nothing they can do to reduce the volume of traffic visiting the site. My understanding is the when the original site was developed it should have included measures to deal with these issues but that these were never delivered.

My next concern is about the more general impact that a massive complex will have on the local landscape. The loss of 75 acres of countryside, the intrusive appearance of 4 storey buildings in a rural landscape, the cutting of trees and hedgerows, the loss of wildlife habitats and diversion of well used footpaths to mention but a few of my concerns. This is a green field site, set in open countryside, and directly contradicts the Government Manifesto which promised building on brownfield sites.

I am concerned about the whole process of the site selection, which has been secretive and carried out during the height of the Covid "lockdown" period when the local population were unable to meet freely to discuss options or attend meetings. Freedom of Information requests from Ulnes Walton Action Group have been refused. I wonder what they are trying to hide?I cannot find any evidence that the MoJ have considered any other sites or stated their reasons for choosing Ulnes Walton. This seems to be the cheap option for them as they already own the site. It would not be a cheap option for us who live in the location. The plan has already been rejected and the appeal does not address existing or expected concerns. I cannot see any justification for it being approved on a second representation.