

06 March 2023

Phil Barber
Decision Officer, Planning and Casework Unit
Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities
3rd Floor Fry Buildings
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By email only: Phil.Barber@levellingup.gov.uk; pcc@levellingup.gov.uk

Dear Mr Barber

Land adjacent to HMP Garth and HMP Wymott, Leyland, Lancashire
App ref: 21/01028/OUTMAJ

Thank you for your email dated 01 March 2023 providing us with a link to the Ministry of Justice's ("MoJ's") further evidence filed in relation to this inquiry.

Within your email you request that we provide comment on the MoJ's new evidence by 9 March 2023. The updating evidence comprises 402 pages of detailed, technical evidence, including a revised s106 agreement, that will require full consideration. It is wholly unreasonable to expect us to be able to digest, liaise with our legal advisors and provide a response in 6 working days, particularly given that the MoJ had 6 weeks to consider and prepare its evidence.

As per the joint letter sent by Chorley Borough Council and this Action Group in February 2023, we continue to have real concerns about the fairness of the process being adopted by the Secretary of State, including, now, in relation to the lack of a fair opportunity to respond to the MoJ's recent evidence. We re-iterate that the only fair way to ensure adequate scrutiny moving forward is for the Secretary of State to re-open the inquiry, allow rebuttal evidence to be filed and to allow for cross examination of the MoJ's latest evidence.

We look forward to your confirmation that the inquiry shall be re-opened in due course by return.

Yours sincerely

Emma Curtis

For and on behalf of Ulnes Walton Action Group