



Ministry
of Justice

Rt Hon Edward Argar MP
Minister of State for Justice

Sir Bob Neill KC (Hon) MP
House of Commons
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NEW PRISONS PROGRAMME UPDATE

Further to my letter of 21 November last year, I am writing to update you on the progress of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) New Prisons Programme, specifically the new prisons which have been subject to planning appeals.

As you will be aware, the MoJ had appealed planning refusals for three new prisons in Leicestershire (1,715 place category B training prison next to HMP Gartree), Buckinghamshire (1,468 category C resettlement prison next to HMPs Grendon and Springhill) and Lancashire (1,715 category C resettlement prison next to HMPs Garth and Wymott).

I am pleased to advise that on 30 January, DLUHC's Secretary of State reached a decision to grant outline planning permission for the new prison in **Buckinghamshire**. We do recognise local sensitivities around this site and are committed to working closely with key local stakeholders and residents, sharing more information with them as soon as we are able.

I wrote to you in November following DLUHC's Secretary of State granting outline planning permission for the new prison in **Leicestershire**. We have now submitted a 'Reserved Matters Application' following a period of engagement with stakeholders and residents. The RMA covers the details of the proposal, which includes the appearance and layout of the prison.

In **Lancashire**, DLUHC issued a 'minded to grant' decision subject to the provision of further evidence on highways safety. This evidence will be the subject of a reopened Inquiry, which is scheduled to begin on 25 March 2024. It will then be for the Planning Inspector to issue their recommendation and for DLUHC to set a timetable for determination.

I hope that you will agree that the granting of planning permission in Buckinghamshire in addition to Leicestershire is good news and will allow us to deliver much needed prison places across the estate.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Shadow Justice Secretary.

RT HON EDWARD ARGAR MP