



Ministry
of Justice

MoJ Estate Directorate
4th Floor, 102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

E prisontransformationsitesearch@justice.gsi.gov.uk

2 February 2016

Councillor Graham Butland
Braintree District Council
Cllr.gbutland@braintree.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Graham Butland,

As part of the Spending Review 2015 it was announced that this Government is investing £1.3bn to reform and modernise the prison estate to make it more efficient, safer and focused on supporting prisoner rehabilitation. This includes building 10,000 new, modern prison places allowing us to improve rehabilitation in the prison estate and to close and sell ageing, inefficient prisons.

Identifying Sites

The Ministry of Justice is in the process of identifying suitable sites for new prisons. We would like to invite you to help us establish whether there are any sites in your area that might be suitable for a new prison.

There are numerous benefits for local communities of building a new prison. We know from a study we commissioned in 2013 that a new, large prison could provide over £22m in annual revenue to the local economy and create around 1,000 local jobs - on top of the construction jobs associated with the build.

For instance, the current 2,100 place North Wales Prison building project in Wrexham, where construction commenced in Autumn 2014, has already led to £27.1m worth of local business.

We are in touch with a number of local authorities across the country to examine whether this is an option that could work for them. Clearly we will need to explore many more sites than we will ultimately need in order to identify the best possible locations.

However, we believe your area could be a viable option and so we are keen to hear if you would be interested in exploring the possibility of building a new prison and the benefits associated with doing so.

Site criteria

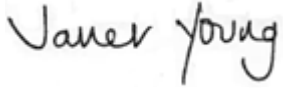
If so, we would first like to know if you have any sites which meet the following criteria:

1. Site of a minimum of c.10 flat hectares (c.25 acres) of developable area
2. No clear impediments to achieving planning permission for a prison
3. Ground conditions such that no abnormal costs expected during development (i.e. not marsh / flood plain /avoiding high probability flood zone)
4. Possible to connect to water/sewage/gas/electricity without unreasonable cost
5. Good access to public transport and motorways/trunks roads
6. Accessible for prison construction without major enhancement of existing transport infrastructure
7. No known major factors such as ecological or historic designations on the site or on adjoining land that could prejudice development
8. Any contamination is manageable
9. Suitable shape for development
10. Previously developed/ brownfield site

11. No significant Public Right of Way (PRoW), 3rd party rights of access or covenants

If you do have land that meets the above specification, please submit suitable sites for consideration to: prisontransformationsitesearch@justice.gsi.gov.uk. The deadline for responses is 16 February 2016. If you have any queries please contact: prisontransformationsitesearch@justice.gsi.gov.uk. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Young". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Janet Young, Director of Estates