



21 March 2024

### **New Prison Programme - Wethersfield**

I am writing to update you on Ministry of Justice (MoJ) interest in land at Wethersfield Airfield in relation to a new prison scheme.

MoJ are currently delivering 20,000 additional, modern prison places, the largest prison build programme since the Victorian era, ensuring the right conditions are in place to rehabilitate prisoners, helping to cut crime and protect the public. Of these, 10,000 places will be provided at six new prisons. HMP Five Wells and HMP Fosse Way are now open and HMP Millsike is under construction. We have recently secured outline planning permission for two new prisons in Leicestershire and Buckinghamshire and one, in Lancashire, is subject to an ongoing planning appeal.

We are cognisant that the Home Office plan to use parts of the Wethersfield site for the foreseeable future and we do not anticipate progressing a prison scheme whilst they have a presence on the site. However, we will continue to maintain an interest in Wethersfield as part of our long-term pipeline strategy.

Should you have any questions, the Prison Supply team can be contacted via: [psdenquiries@justice.gov.uk](mailto:psdenquiries@justice.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Smith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**James Smith**  
**Programme Director: New Prisons**