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Justice Matters:
**A Community Plan
for Holloway**

The Rt Hon David Lidington MP
Lord Chancellor & Secretary of State for Justice
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ

21 July, 2017

Dear Secretary of State,

HMP Holloway

We are writing to you about the future of the HMP Holloway prison site in London, N7 and to request a meeting.

The land is due for sale in the coming months with a view to using income from the sale to invest in prisons elsewhere. It is our understanding that the final decision about the sale and disposal of this large area of public land is in your hands.

Community Plan for Holloway is organised by the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies and funded by Trust for London. We are working in coalition with many local people and community groups to put forward a positive vision for the Holloway prison site, a number of whom are signatories to this letter.

Meeting local needs

Our recently published report, *Islington: A local needs analysis*, reveals high levels of deprivation, poverty and need in the borough with some of the highest housing costs. Given what is known about the problems facing people in Islington, it is clear that the site could offer a once in a generation opportunity to meet needs and benefit the local community.

Community Plan for Holloway is currently running an online survey and community engagement activities to encourage local people and organisations to put forward their views about what is important to them, and what they would like to see on the site. To date in excess of 450 responses have been received. Local people will continue to be consulted over the coming months.

From the responses already received, it is clear that there is very strong support for:

1. The land to remain in public ownership
2. Genuinely affordable housing
3. Community space
4. Green space
5. Provision of services for women

A report will be published in September 2017 providing a more in-depth overview of the community perspective on this. This will be followed by a community plan in early 2018.

We believe that the expected sale of the land to private developers risks squandering a golden opportunity to address some of the systemic problems for low income Londoners in finding safe, decent and affordable homes.

Given the likelihood that the land is due to be sold very soon, we would like to request a meeting to discuss other possibilities for the site.

As a public body, it is our hope that the Ministry of Justice is willing to engage with the people of Islington and consider their views and needs in any future decision you make about the site.

Yours faithfully,



Richard Garside, Director, **Centre for Crime and Justice Studies**

Kate Paradine, Chief Executive, **Women in Prison**

Morag Gillie, **Islington Axe the Housing Act**

Gary Heather, **Islington Trades Union Council**

Revd. Alexandra Lilley, Priest in Charge, **St George & All Saints Tufnell Park**

Andy Bain, **Islington Hands Off Our Public Services**

Maureen Mansfield, **Reclaim Holloway**