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Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ

23 March 2017

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Economic Impact of a New Prison

I am writing to request that the Ministry of Justice publishes the 2013 analysis by Peter Brett Associates, *Economic Impact of a New Prison*. The report was referenced in the recent planning application in relation to the proposed construction of HMP Wellingborough. According to the planning statement submitted by the Ministry of Justice:

'In the operational phase it is expected there would be just over 800 staff employed directly at the prison. Guidance from the MoJ's Economic Impact of a New Prison report indicates that 437 of these could be filled by people from the local area. The expenditure of the prison itself once operational would lead to additional indirect impacts, including 183 jobs, of which 35 would be undertaken by local people.'

Yesterday, the Ministry of Justice announced plans for four new prisons in Yorkshire, Wigan, Rochester and Port Talbot. According to the Ministry's statement, the proposed new prisons will 'act as a boost to regional economies across the country – creating up to 2,000 jobs in the construction and manufacturing industries and new opportunities for local businesses.' In the same statement, you were quoted as saying:

'This significant building programme will not only help create a modern prison estate where wholesale reform can truly take root, but will also provide a thriving, economic lifeline for the local community – creating hundreds of jobs for local people and maximising opportunities for businesses.'

As the Ministry embarks on this latest stage in the prison-building programme, it is important that its plans are subject to proper scrutiny by parliamentarians, independent experts and members of the public, particularly in those areas where the new prisons are planned to be built. The publication of the *Economic Impact of a New Prison* report will assist the scrutiny process and I ask that it be published without delay.

I am copying this letter to Bob Neill and Meg Hillier, in their capacity as Chairs of the Justice Committee and the Public Accounts Committee.

Yours faithfully,
Richard Garside

Richard Garside
Director

Cc Bob Neill MP
Meg Hillier MP