All correspondence to:
Angela Rayner MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Tel: 02072198782
www.angelarayner.com
angela.rayner.mp@parliament.uk

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter informing me that Oldham Council has passed the motion against the Ministry of Justice Proposals to close both the County and Magistrates court in Oldham.

Jim spoke to me in relation to this, together with colleagues from across my constituency I have taken a number of actions.

As I know you are aware this also effects the Tameside part of my Constituency.

As the motion outlines, under the government's plans, a number of County and magistrates Courts would be shut down with the public forced to travel into Manchester for justice.

I believe it is totally unacceptable that both Oldham magistrate's court and the town's county court would be shut down, with the public forced to travel to Tameside, Manchester or Salford to have their cases heard.

All Labour MP's have pledged support to Oldham and Tameside Council.

If these closures go ahead, thousands of local people will be denied proper access to justice.

It will mean longer journeys for the public, including victims of crime, witnesses and police; increased costs for magistrates and staff; job losses and the loss of vital business rates income to the councils.

British justice is under threat - first we had massive cuts to legal aid, now courts are being closed down.

Those that remain will be overstretched with people forced to queue for justice.

These local courts are a vital part of the life of our communities. These closures will leave our already hard-pressed criminal justice system creaking at the knees and bring the concept of British justice into disrepute."

Finally I have set up an online petition against the closure plans at
http://www.angelarayner.com/petition_against_court_closures

Yours Sincerely

Angela Rayner MP

@angelarayner   /angelarayner   www.angelarayner.com

Representing Ashton, Failsworth & Droylsden