



Lorraine Beavers MP

Member of Parliament for Blackpool North & Fleetwood

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Andrew Western MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Transformation)
Department for Work and Pensions

RE: Fylde View

18th September 2024

Dear minister,

I write regarding the relocation of DWP staff currently working at Hesketh House, Peel Park, and Ryscar House to the new building – Flyde View – in Blackpool town centre. I am grateful for your letter last week updating me on the move. The benefits of the move you outline are extremely positive, in particular there being no necessity for redundancies.

Whilst the advantages of the town centre location are welcomed and acknowledged by staff, a number of concerns have been raised with me which should be addressed before the move is implemented in January:

Parking: There currently appears to be no onsite parking for staff, including disabled parking, nor any plans for a specific parking rate for DWP staff as is in place for council staff.

Safety: Many of the staff due to be relocated have hybrid working arrangements, and are concerned about travelling into town with their laptops – potentially by public transport due to the issue above – and becoming a target for street crime.

Illuminations: From the September-January period, the illuminations on the promenade have a very significant effect on public transport, especially the trams towards Fleetwood. For those working late this will potentially prove very problematic.

Flyde View rent: Staff have queried whether the council is subsidising the DWP rent, or whether it will be paying market rate. If it is being subsidised, is it considered acceptable that one area of the public sector should subsidise another to move jobs from the south end of Blackpool to the north end of Blackpool, considering the challenges that Blackpool has in terms of the need for redevelopment.

Trade union facilities: The PCS Branch representing the workers due to be relocated have requested that the facilities available for the union's use match those that were available at previous buildings. This includes 2 meeting rooms, as well as union notice boards.

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I would be most grateful if you could look into these concerns to ensure the move to Fylde View is as smooth as possible. A change of workplace is a challenging time for any worker, and I am confident that the Department will make every effort to ease the transition.

Yours sincerely,
Lorraine Beavers MP

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