To Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh

From
Mrs Mary Gildea

Re Objection to Proposed Rail Link to and from Glasgow Airport via Paisley St James

I would like to register my objection in whole that this rail link called the St James Spur should not take place and in particular over the Racecourse football playing fields.

This area is one of only three large playing fields in Scotland and thus should be safeguarded.

Also the area was willed in perpetuity to the people of Paisley. Despite this the area has already been eroded by the building of a motorway. The proposed rail links more or less half it again.

Also I understand that there are mine workings along the route chosen. The heavy workings required could undermine buildings in the surrounding area.

My own house, owned by the Gildea family for approximately 100 years could be affected by the heavy workings also, as the work will take a long spell, this, and the noise from the operations and the alleged train service which would run for 18 hours and for late flights. We would suffer from noise pollution. In addition our light will be affected by 1) the contract work and 2) the structure of the proposed viaduct itself. My husband and myself are pensioners and sleep lightly our sleep would be severely disturbed.
The Racecourse Football park is an inspiration to young players and to the people of Paisley (and the surrounding areas). Just to see all the football fields in action is quite something and promotes the interest in the sport in the young people involved. It is surely wrong to cut down provision of sport facilities -- at a time when sport is being promoted -- is keeping our youngsters healthy -- our young men in exercise— out of trouble and delinquency, and also helping to prevent obesity.

I believe Scotland is applying to hold the Commonwealth Games. We will require young sports people.

I would like to point out that I attended four consultations regarding the proposed rail link but at no time were any other routes considered. The consultation was only about having a viaduct or an embankment. The route over the Racecourse was a done deal and actually was objected to at all the meetings I attended. There are other possible routes but these have been ruled out by those in charge without any meaningful consultation with us. I believe the area chosen runs through an exclusion area which makes it easy for those officials who want to do this.

Paisley and this area in particular is in need of these playing fields as quite a large number of the footballers come from the Ferguslie Park area which is an exclusion area.

Please find enclosed several sheets of objectors who signed in agreement with my objection.

Yours faithfully Mrs Mary T Gildea