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**From:** ]  
**Sent:** 25 September 2020 12:14  
**To:** NATIONALCASEWORK <NATIONALCASEWORK@dft.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Diversion of Public footpath, Holmfirth 60

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing in support of the proposed diversion of Footpath 60, Upperthong, Holmfirth, and I would like my support recorded on your files for this case.

I have lived, worked and been part of the local community for many years, including 8 years as the Chief Executive for our local children's hospice. My children and I enjoy the beautiful countryside which surrounds us in the Holme Valley, walking the many footpaths and cycling the quiet lanes together.

I live just a few minutes away from the footpath in question. I frequently cycle along Wolfstones Road and walk along the footpath with my children. I have, in recent months, observed the careful and sympathetic renovation of the farmhouse, and noted the care which has been taken to minimise disruption while the work has been going on. I was pleased with the diversion which was put in place as it was a significant improvement on the original route which took us along the driveway of the farm, with the prospect of meeting traffic on the driveway and also taking us uncomfortably close to the farm house. The diversion, however, is a wide path, some distance from the farm, with a much improved surface, better views, and a beautiful seating area where my children are always grateful to stop for mid-walk snacks. Furthermore I feel much safer when my children and I join Wolfstones Road as the view of the road is much clearer both ways than was the case with the original path.

With all of the above in mind I was confused and disappointed to hear that members of Kirklees council, having originally approved the diversion, have changed their mind for no apparent reason. I can only imagine that there is a political motive beyond the sudden and inexplicable u-turn, and I am dismayed that this has happened. Not only is the diversion a significant improvement, but the decision (I thought) had already been made and it appears to be a complete waste of public funds to unnecessarily revisit this.

I therefore request that you support the diversion of the footpath along the much improved route, and I sincerely hope that common sense prevails on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Peter J Branson