



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr E O'Brien  
Leader of the Council  
Bury Town Hall  
Knowsley Street  
Bury  
Lancashire  
BL9 0ST

11 June 2020

Dear Councillor O'Brien

**Re: Robert Peel Statues in Bury**

We do both hope you are well.

The town of Bury has been rightly proud of its association with Sir Robert Peel, 2<sup>nd</sup> bt. for over 150 years.

Born on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 1788 at Chamber Hall in Bury and became one of our country's most distinguished politicians, serving as Prime Minister between 1841 to 1846 and 1834 to 1835.

Sir Robert Peel's period in government was a milestone for social reform. Landmark legislation cut working hours for women and children, created cheap and regular rail services and reorganised the police force. He pushed the Catholic Emancipation Bill through Parliament and his changes to the penal code resulted in around 100 fewer crimes being punishable by death. His reforms to the gaol system, led to payment for jailers and education for the inmates.

He passed ground-breaking legislation, such as the Mines Act of 1842 that banned the employment of women and children underground and in 1846 he repealed the Corn Laws to support much of the population that had been impacted by failed harvests, and passed the Importation Act to remove trade barriers and drive down the price of imported corn.

His reputation was such that a statue in his honour was unveiled in the centre of Bury and in September 1852 the Peel Monument was erected on Holcombe Hill, the £1,000 cost being met by public subscription.

We are therefore writing to you to request that Bury MBC takes every possible precaution to protect the Peel Monument and the statue to Sir Robert outside Bury Parish Church. Over the last week we have become increasingly concerned by a national campaign which appears to be targeting these



memorials and we would like assurance that you will not only ensure these sites are protected but join with ourselves in publicly celebrating the life and achievements of Sir Robert Peel 2<sup>nd</sup> bt.

Would you further confirm that Bury MBC will not unilaterally remove either of these memorials and join the thousands of Bury residents who are proud to be associated with this great man and consider these landmarks to be important parts of our town's history and culture.

We look forward to hearing from you as a matter of urgency.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Daly".

**James Daly MP**

*Member of Parliament for Bury North*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christian Wakeford".

**Christian Wakeford MP**

*Member of Parliament for Bury South*