Address

Date

Dear

I am a member of (name) WI and am writing to you as my Member of Parliament for (area) in Cornwall to ask that you and the Government’s Communities and Local Government Committee work together to stop further closure of public toilets not only here in Cornwall but nationally and that legislation be sought covering the provision of an adequate number of public toilets by local authorities.

We all have a need to use the toilet several times a day when we are away from our homes, whether it is at work, on holiday or simply travelling from place to place and there are some groups who suffer from medical conditions that require more urgent access to clean, hygienic toilets.

A cut in funding of £170m by central Government in 2010 forced Cornwall Council to review the non-statutory services it provides; such as public toilets. The public convenience budget was reduced by half with a knock-on effect resulting in the closure of many public toilets across the county.

Good public toilet provision enables everyone to participate fully in a civic life and is needed if we want people to increase their use of public transport and walk and cycle more. The result of closing public toilets affects so many individuals and businesses. It removes the entitlement to privacy and public decency. Lack of access to toilet and hand washing facilities causes many elderly and disabled people to stay at home because they cannot rely on access to public toilets; it leads to street urination and fouling which spreads disease. Delays in answering “nature's call” can increase infections and other health problems. Women need better provision; currently women often have to queue far longer than men and the needs of babies and children are not always considered. And so the list goes on.

This is more than just a question of providing a convenience. It's a serious public health concern and deserves serious attention.

Please help us save our loos !

Signed…..