



**Dr David Salter**

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This letter is from an individual Member of the Council and is not  
written on behalf of Plymouth City Council

Rt. Hon. Tony Blair MP,  
The Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London SW1A 2AA

19<sup>th</sup> January 2006

Dear Prime Minister,

### **Government Investment in Swimming Pools**

Yesterday at Prime Minister's Question Time you will recall that the Member for North-East Derbyshire, Natascha Engel MP, asked "*Will the Prime Minister join me in condemning one of the most disgraceful decisions by Liberal-led Chesterfield Borough Council in closing the only available swimming facility in one of the most deprived wards near my part of the constituency in Stavely?*", and that you most helpfully replied "*Yes, I think on balance that I can. I join my hon. Friend in condemning that decision. It is extremely important that we invest in community facilities; that is why the Government are putting major sums into that. I hope that local authorities follow the Government's lead instead of cutting those facilities*".

Here in the City of Plymouth we are facing the imminent closure of Seaton Pool, the major swimming facility serving the north of the city, which has a travel-to-work population of 400,000. Plans to expand the swimming pool in the city's Central Park are currently viewed as incapable of compensating for the loss of these facilities in the north. Plymouth has a particular need to address issues of childhood obesity and the swimming pool in the north of the city is really needed, currently being used by over 100,000 swimmers every year, including those receiving rehabilitation and other therapies associated with the major teaching hospital and medical school in that part of the city. But to replace the existing facility will cost some £4 million, which has not been found. Could Plymouth please have the £4 million required? Full details of the case for such a project can readily be provided and I am confident that your honourable Friend the Member for Plymouth Devonport would be most grateful, as I am sure would a very large proportion of the people of Plymouth.

I would greatly appreciate hearing from you how Plymouth can avoid cutting community swimming facilities that are so desperately needed. Thank you for your interest in investment in these facilities.

Yours sincerely,

Dr David Salter  
Plymouth City Councillor and Shadow Cabinet Member for Health