

Withdrawn

House of Commons

City of London (Markets) Bill

1. Petitioner information

In the box below, give the name and address of each individual, business or organisation submitting the petition. Please note that names and addresses listed here will be provided to the Bill's promoter, but will be redacted in the version of the petition published on the Parliament website.

Peter Acton
Cardiff

In the box below, give a description of the petitioners. For example, "We are the owners/tenants of the addresses above"; "My company has offices at the address above"; "Our organisation represents the interests of..."; "We are the parish council of...".

As a UK citizen, London is my capital city, and while I currently reside in Cardiff, I lived and worked in London for 13 years, including six years in the City of London. I care deeply about London's economic well-being and heritage, which are both at risk if this Bill proceeds. I represent the 31,000 people who have signed the Save Smithfield Market petition on Change.org. I also represent the Indian community of Cardiff where many families rely on food from these wholesale markets.

2. Objections to the Bill

In the box below, write your objections to the Bill and why your property or other interests are **directly and specially affected**. Please number each paragraph.

Only objections outlined in this petition can be presented when giving evidence to the Committee. You will not be entitled to be heard by the Committee on new matters not included in your written petition.

1.I represent the 31,000 people who have signed the Save Smithfield Market petition on Change.org. As a UK citizen, London is my capital city, and while I currently reside in Cardiff, I lived and worked in London for 13 years, including six years in the City of London. I care deeply about London's economic well-being and heritage, which are both at risk if this Bill proceeds.I also represent the Indian community of Cardiff where many families rely on food from these wholesale markets.

2.The City of London has a duty as the custodian of Smithfield Market, which has served as a vital food hub for the people of London for nearly 1,000 years. My concerns about its closure extend equally to Billingsgate Market, another key part of London's food infrastructure.

3.Generations before us have safeguarded these historic markets through economic downturns and the devastation of two world wars. The current generation entrusted with the City of London's governance must do the same, recognising that Smithfield and Billingsgate are essential lifelines for London and beyond.

4.These markets are irreplaceable assets that must be preserved not only for their historical and cultural significance but also for their crucial role in food security. Closing or selling them off would be a short-sighted failure of leadership, impacting rising inflation and one that Londoners will regret for decades to come.

5.The food infrastructure of London depends on Smithfield and Billingsgate Markets. Their closure would severely impact countless communities, including low-income families, schools, the NHS, the Police, and many others who rely on these wholesale markets for affordable and quality sustenance.

6.Moreover, these markets serve far beyond London. Even here in Cardiff, I know of Indian communities that send members to buy food from these markets weekly. They are a vital resource for communities across the UK, reinforcing the national importance of their continued existence.

7.London's markets—Borough Market, New Covent Garden, Spitalfields, Smithfield, and Billingsgate - are world-renowned. Closing two of these major institutions would be nothing short of a dereliction of duty by the City of London Corporation.

8.The goal should not be to close Smithfield and Billingsgate but to invest in their future. We must ensure they continue to thrive as major economic drivers for London and the wider UK.

9.I urge you to reject this Bill and to work towards a sustainable plan that secures the future of Smithfield and Billingsgate Markets.

3. What do you want to be done in response?

In the box below, tell us what you think should be done in response to your objections to the Bill. You do not have to complete this box if you do not want to.

You can include this information in your response to the previous section on 'Objections to the Bill' if you prefer. Please number each paragraph.

1. I urge you to reject this Bill and to work towards a sustainable plan that secures the future of Smithfield and Billingsgate Markets. Specifically, I call for the immediate shelving of the proposed closure of Smithfield and Billingsgate markets.
2. Furthermore, I urge the establishment of a working party, with partners from key sectors, dedicated to developing a business plan for the creation of New Smithfield and New Billingsgate markets, ensuring their continued role as economic and cultural cornerstones of London's food infrastructure.