

STATEMENT REGARDING DISABILITY ACCESS TO JEREMY DELLER'S PROPOSED PETERLOO MEMORIAL

The Peterloo Memorial Campaign fully endorses the artistic aspects of Jeremy Deller's memorial concept, which meet our '*Respectful, Informative and Permanent*' criteria. We're satisfied with the level of engagement we have had in contributing towards the wording and images used in the final design.

However, we believe the disabled community is right to be frustrated and angry about the lack of access to the monument. In addition to commemorating the massacre, the memorial has been designed as a platform for speakers and demonstrators, but people using wheelchairs or unable to climb steps cannot use it fully. These objections were raised during our independent consultation in November, which we swiftly made public and forwarded to the council. We accept our share of responsibility for not immediately spotting this issue when the design was unveiled. We have worked with the council, the artist and disabled representatives to try and find a 'retrofit' solution. We are disappointed to be informed by the Council that no solution is viable in the limited time left available.

The PMC has pressed over many years for a much earlier, longer and more inclusive public consultation process over this public memorial, which would have allowed such problems to be identified and resolved. It is ironic that a memorial to a campaign for democracy and inclusion should suffer from limited democratic participation and leave some people feeling excluded.