Defence Infrastructure Organisation

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Mr Chris Bending
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Ref: 2026/TO01407

Dear Chris Bending

Thank you for your letter dated 10 December, sent to both the Rt Hon John Healey Secretary of State for Defence, and the Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood Home Secretary. We note you have asked for Crown consent under section 296A Town County Planning Act for Wealden District Council to take steps for the purposes of enforcement in relation to Crowborough Training Camp ("the Property"), limited to the proposed asylum accommodation project, for an initial period of eighteen months.

Your correspondence has been passed to the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), the MOD organisation with responsibility for the Defence Estate. In accordance with standard procedures, I am responding to this matter on behalf of the MOD. Any response from Home Office (HO) Colleagues will be sent to you separately.

The Property has been transferred to the HO for the purposes of Asylum and any plans to accommodate asylum seekers at the Property is the decision of the HO, who occupy the Property pursuant to a Memorandum of Terms of Occupation (MOTO) which the Secretary of State for Defence has entered into with the HO. The terms of the MOTO require HO to obtain the necessary planning consent required for its intended use.

There has been no change from the position as set out in our response to the initial Planning Contravention Notice letter dated 11 December 2025 and our response to the subsequent request for follow up information dated 19 December 2025. MOD considers it has complied with planning requirements in relation to the CCTV and temporary fencing to which you have referred to and which were carried out prior to the HO signing the MOTO.

Additionally MOD does not consider there is any good reason to depart from the starting point established by section 296A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (namely that enforcement action may not be taken against it without Crown consent) and **does**

not give its consent to enforcement action of that referred to in your correspondence or any other kind.

Yours sincerely,

DIO Secretariat