Home Office

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Cllr James Partridge
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Wealden District Council

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3 March 2026

Dear Cllr Partridge & Cllr Millward,

Thank you for your letter of 21 January regarding the Crowborough site, and the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) issued Environmental Impact Assessment screening direction.

As you are aware, the Crowborough site began accommodating asylum seekers from 22 January 2026. The Crowborough site provides basic, safe accommodation for asylum seekers and is designed to be as self-sufficient as possible.

We continue to engage with the police and other key delivery partners. Local councillors are invited on-site to assess the local security requirements of the site operation; further details will be sent shortly.

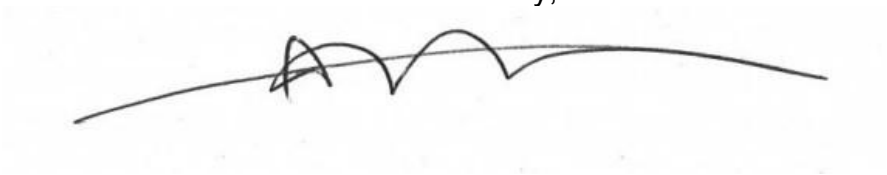
I recognise the strength of feeling in the wider community and we will continue to engage with the local community through updated factsheets and closed events for the residents living nearest to the site. We will also continue to assess opportunities for the Home Office to attend appropriate public meetings. The Home Office continues to brief a wide range of stakeholders, including voluntary sector and faith groups, to help provide public reassurance and counter mis/dis-information.

The MHCLG screening decision sets out how the requirements relating to the environment for using Class Q have been satisfied. This decision should provide you, the local authority, with the necessary basis to discharge its obligations. Disclosure of further documents relevant to legal proceedings has been handled separately. However, if you believe there are specific concerns regarding the robustness of the screening, please set these out formally so we can refer them back to MHCLG where appropriate.

We can confirm that conversations have taken place with Crawley Town Council, and shuttlebuses are in place offering regular transport off the site away from the local town of Crowborough. Asylum seekers at the site are not detained; however, in addition to shuttlebuses, the site is self-contained as essential services are provided on site to reduce the impact on local services through reducing the need for asylum seekers to leave the site.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) continues to support local Cadet Forces in identifying and securing alternative training locations. The Army Cadets, No 8 Crowborough Detachment, are now parading twice a week at a community site in Crowborough. The other Cadet Forces are assessing alternative locations. We fully recognise the value cadets bring to the local community and the importance of ensuring these activities continue with minimal disruption.

Yours sincerely,



Alex Norris MP
Minister for Border Security & Asylum