Home Office

Andrew Larter
Asylum Accommodation Delivery Director
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/home-office

Chris Bending
Director of Place
Wealden District Council
Vicarage Lane
Hailsham
East Sussex
BN27 2AX

11/12/2025

Dear Mr Bending,

PLANNING CONTRAVENTION NOTICE: LAND AT CROWBOROUGH ARMY TRAINING CAMP, UCKFIELD ROAD, CROWBOROUGH, TN6 1UB

I am responding to the Planning Contravention Notice (PCN) served on the Home Office on the 21st of November 2025. I am replying on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Home Department as the Asylum Accommodation Delivery Director.

I have been advised that a number of the questions posed in the PCN are beyond the scope of the power within section 171C of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, in so far as they do not relate to activities which have occurred on the site but to potential future activities. The Planning Practice Guidance (and case law) is clear that the power to serve a PCN should not be used to undertake an investigative trawl. For this reason, I will not be responding to Questions 4, 5, 11, 12 and 13, except to say that a final decision to accommodate asylum seekers at the camp will be made in due course.

If you disagree with this interpretation and would like to provide reasoning why you do so, I will be happy consider further.

For ease of reference, the information is set out in the order requested in the PCN.

1. State your interest in the Land (freeholder, lessee, tenant, etc.)

The Secretary of State for Defence (SSD) as the freehold owner has entered into a Memorandum of Terms of Occupation ('MOTO') with the Home Office in respect of its occupation of Crowborough Barracks. As the Government cannot lease properties between departments, a MOTO is used to regularise occupation in a similar manner to a lease.

2. If the boundaries of the Land in your ownership extend beyond those shown on the attached plan you are required to mark them on the plan in blue or black pen.

As per my response to Q1, the Home Office does not own the site and therefore has no ownership boundary.

3. Provide the full names and addresses of all/any persons with the following interests in the Land:
a. Freeholder/owner.
b. Leaseholder.
c. Occupier(s) – including any children/dependents.
d. Mortgagee (if any).
e. Agent (if any).
f. Person to whom any rent is paid.
g. If any of the above operates under a trading name, give the name of the owner and/or partners.
h. If any of the above is a Limited Company, provide the registered office address.
i. Provide the names and addresses of all contractors and professional advisers engaged on the works.
j. State whether held on weekly tenancy, agreement, leasehold, etc.

So far as I am aware, in addition to the Home Office's occupation in accordance with the MOTO, the Marine Society and Sea Cadets are also on site.

Questions 6 to 10 and 14 to 19 relate to works which were carried out by the SSD, not the Home Office, and I do not provide a response on that basis. I understand the SSD will be submitting a separate response to the PCN.

I would be very grateful if you could confirm receipt of this information. If you require further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Larter
Asylum Accommodation Delivery Director
Home Office