Wealden District Council

Andrew Larter
Asylum Accommodation Delivery Director, Head of the Asylum Accommodation Taskforce
Home Office
1st Floor Peel, 2 Marsham St
London SW1P 4DF

By email: [redacted]

16 December 2025
[redacted]
www.wealden.gov.uk
01323 443322

Dear Mr Larter

Request for information under Section 235 Housing Act 2004: Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) licensing, Section 61(1)

We write to request clarification that due consideration has been given to HMO licensing in respect of plans for the Crowborough Training Camp. At the time of writing, no application has been received from the Home Office.

Section 254 of the Housing Act 2004 defines the meaning of "house in multiple occupation". Section 254(5) provides for any purposes of this Act (other than those of Part 1) a building or part of a building within subsection (1) is not a house in multiple occupation if it is listed in Schedule 14.

Under Section 61(1) of the Housing Act 2004, subject to certain exceptions, every HMO to which Part 2 of the Act applies, must be licensed. We consider that each of the buildings proposed to be occupied as accommodation at the Crowborough Training Camp requires a licence under Section 61(1).

We request your explanation as to why you consider that these buildings are not HMOs which require licensing, or whether you will be submitting an application for licences under section 61(1) of the Housing Act 2004 for the buildings proposed to be occupied by service users at Crowborough Training Camp.

Wealden District Council is keen to ensure that all requirements in respect of HMOs are met and that our powers and responsibilities are respected.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Chris Bending
Director of Place