Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

[redacted]
Project Manager
Accommodation Programme Non-Detained

Tel: [redacted]

Email: [redacted].gov.uk

Your ref:

Our ref: PCU/EIASCR/C1435/3377283

Date: 12 January 2026

Dear [redacted]

Request for a Screening Direction
Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017
Proposal for temporary accommodation for up to 540 asylum applicants with the installation of associated infrastructure at Crowborough Training Camp, Crowborough, T6N 1UB

I refer to your request request dated 18 December, made under 5(6) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (S.I. 2017/571) ("the 2017 Regulations") for the Secretary of State's screening direction on the matter of whether or not the development proposed is 'EIA development' within the meaning of the 2017 Regulations.

The above development falls within the description at 10 (b) Urban Development Project of Schedule 2 to the 2017 Regulations and is located in a sensitive area, namely the High Weald National Landscape. Therefore, the Secretary of State considers the proposals **to be 'Schedule 2 development'** within the meaning of the 2017 Regulations.

However, in the opinion of the Secretary of State and having taken into account the selection criteria in Schedule 3 to the 2017 Regulations, the proposal **is not likely to have significant effects on the environment**, see the attached written statement which gives the reasons for direction as required by 5(5) of the EIA Regulations.

Accordingly, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by regulation 5(3) of the 2017 Regulations the Secretary of State hereby directs that the proposed development is **not 'EIA development'** within the meaning of the 2017 Regulations. Permitted development rights under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (SI 596) as amended are therefore unaffected.

You will bear in mind that the Secretary of State's opinion on the likelihood of the development having significant environmental effects is reached only for the purposes of this direction.

I will be sending a copy of this letter and written statement to Wealden District Council.

Yours sincerely,

Planning Casework Unit

This decision was made by officials on behalf of the Secretary of State, and signed on his behalf