Home Office

Andrew Larter
Asylum Accommodation Delivery Director

2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/home-office

23/12/2025

Dear Mr Bending,

I write in response to your letter of 15 December 2025 informally requesting additional information in respect of Crowborough Barracks. Before turning to the additional questions posed, I note your position that questions 11 to 13 in the PCN are not a trawl of future scenarios but go to whether any permitted development rights relied upon are available. I understand that the Secretary of State for Defence (SSD) is providing a separate response which confirms that the permitted development rights relied upon are not contingent upon any intended or future use and therefore, I am advised that questions 11 to 13 do go beyond the powers in section 171(c) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

As I confirmed at the end of my response to the PCN dated 11 December 2025, I am happy to be contacted further on this matter and provide the responses below to your additional questions:

Q1. As per my response above, the activities to which the PCN relate (and as confirmed by SSD) have been carried out pursuant to permitted development rights which are not contingent any future or intended use. As confirmed in my response to the PCN on 11 December 2025, no decision has yet been made on the use of Crowborough for the housing of asylum seekers and a decision will be made in due course.

Q2. This question is not relevant to the activities alleged in the PCN and I have nothing more to add on this point.

Q3. My response to question 2 equally applies here, save to add that the Government has been transparent about the potential use of a number of military sites to house asylum seekers, one of which includes Crowborough.

Q4. The Home Office requested the works to increase security at the site for its personnel however, as previously confirmed, these works were carried out by the MoD who I understand will be responding separately.

Q5. Due to some sensitivities with disclosing site maps, we would like to suggest that council staff visit the site to verify positions and mounting heights directly. A site visit may also serve to assist with clarifying further details in relation to questions 6 and 7 also. I have asked Dave Harding (Deputy Director, Asylum Accommodation Engagement) to reach out to you separately to discuss convenient dates for a site visit in the new year.

Q.6 As previously confirmed the works were carried out by SSD who are best placed to respond to this question.

Q.7 As per response to question 6, SSD are best place to respond to this question.

Q.8 Not applicable.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Larter