NUSRAT GHANI MP
Member of Parliament for Sussex Weald

Madam Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons
Chairman of Ways and Means
House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

Chris Bending
Wealden District Council
Council Offices
Vicarage Lane
Hailsham
BN27 2AX

26 February 2026

Dear Mr Bending,

Crowborough Training Camp (CTC)

Thank you for your letter of 24 February 2026, it was refreshing to receive such a prompt response to my correspondence from Wealden District Council (WDC) which is appreciated.

You state WDC don't have a formal role in monitoring compliance with the EIA issued by the Secretary of State. Yet with WDC being the local planning authority and its wider role as a representative body, it would surely make sense to undertake monitoring to check if the assessments of potential impact made in the Secretary of State's EIA were accurate when compared to the actual impact?

Effective monitoring would not only support any future assessment of a Planning Application made by the Home Office to WDC for permission to use CTC as Asylum Accommodation or a legal challenge if the Government decided to use an alternative process to seek planning permission?

I would also have thought WDC would at least have a stance on whether the Cadet Training Facilities at CTC were a "community asset" in terms of planning policy?

On the "initial" period listed in the letter, I note your comments. Yet advice from those familiar with this area of the Home Office's work, suggests the works\services being put in place make it highly unlikely the Home Office will move out after only 12 months of usage and vacate the site entirely before 23 January 2027. The phased build-up of operations also indicates this.

I would also note other sites initially used\approved for 12 months under the Q Regulations are still occupied some years later. The exception to this was a site used in Pembrokeshire, Wales.

I will therefore be raising queries with the Home Office as we cannot just accept the idea the usage will only be for 12 months when compared to experience elsewhere and the wording of the letter from the Ministry of Defence.

Finally, I would again highlight how regular and structured engagement on this issue between WDC and local MPs would be in the interests of all, especially the residents of Crowborough.

Yours sincerely,



Nusrat Ghani MP

Proudly representing Crowborough, Hailsham and Heathfield and the villages of Horam, Hellingly, Chiddingly, East Hoathly, Waldron, Hadlow Down, Rotherfield, Framfield, Frant, Mayfield & Five Ashes, Wadhurst, Hartfield and Withyham in Parliament

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