[redacted]
Head of Environmental Casework
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
Planning Casework Unit
By email: [redacted]@communities.gov.uk

[redacted]
Asylum Accommodation Delivery Director, Head of the Asylum Accommodation Taskforce
Home Office
By email: [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk

Wealden District Council

22 January 2026
[redacted]@wealden.gov.uk
www.wealden.gov.uk
01323 443322

Dear [redacted] and [redacted]

Crowborough Training Camp, TN6 1UB
Secretary of State EIA screening direction dated 12 January 2026

I write following the Secretary of State's screening direction and the accompanying written statement dated 12 January 2026 and the decision of Home Office on 21 January to occupy the site, which occurred on 22 January 2026.

The Council has reviewed those documents in its capacity as local planning authority.

As you will know, the written statement describes the project that has been screened as temporary (up to 12 months) accommodation for up to 540 asylum seekers together with the installation of associated site infrastructure.

Under the section addressing the characteristics of the development, a number of works within that project are described as completed, underway, or installed but not operational, including internal fencing with privacy screening, CCTV, generators and refurbishment works.

The Council considers that a clear timing consequence flows directly from that description.

The Council understands that, works began for elements of the screened project in the first week of November.

So the Council, acting as local planning authority, can accurately record and monitor the position, please kindly provide within 7 (seven) working days a single consolidated schedule that:

1. Lists each element of work identified in the written statement.
2. Confirms the actual start date and completion date (or current status where ongoing or installed but not operational).
3. Any works that are outstanding.

It follows that the Home Office would already be approximately 3 months into the 12 month period referred to in the screening material, and the end of any 12 month reliance would fall to be measured from that earlier commencement.

This letter is sent without prejudice to the Council's wider position on the lawfulness of the use and associated development at the site.

Yours sincerely



Chris Bending
Director of Place