Wealden District Council

Ms Nusrat Ghani MP
MP for Sussex Weald
Madam Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons
Chairman of Ways and Means
House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

By email: nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk

27 February 2026
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Dear Ms Ghani

Crowborough Training Camp (CTC)

I write with reference to your letter dated 26 February 2026.

As you might expect, as an officer of the Council, I will refrain from making or commenting on any political statements and keep my answers to your direct questions:-

Monitoring of the EIA screening decision agreed by MHCLG - In my last letter I confirmed that we do not have a formal role in monitoring the compliance with the EIA - this is because MHCLG did not require an EIA, but screened out the need for one. However, as you know, we are active participants in the Multi Agency Forum (MAF), holding the Home Office to account for their commitments, both in their planning documentation and more broadly. Indeed, we have raised a number of concerns in these documents with the Court as part of our legal case.

Cadet Training Facilities as a 'Community Asset' - Yes, the Council absolutely recognises the importance of the cadet facilities. Indeed this was specifically highlighted by the Council back in November, when the Council passed a motion to oppose the plans. Since then, through various means, the Council has been pushing the Home Office and MOD to protect the use. For the avoidance of doubt, the facilities are not registered with the Council as an 'Asset of Community Value' (ACV), which as you might know is a process which governs the sale of the asset (not we understand a risk in this case). However, if the Council had a planning application, then very clearly the impact on the cadets and their facilities would be a material consideration. I know that you will understand that we cannot make statements that would be seen to pre-determine any such application.

Concerns related to use longer than 12 months - The Home Office and MOD have consistently told the Council and other stakeholders that the use is temporary and only for 12 months. You can hear this in answers to questions at our Scrutiny and Performance

Committee on 10 November and of course at other public meetings in late 2025. If the Home Office wishes to use the site for longer than 12 months, then in order to comply with planning law they would either need to make a planning application to Wealden or pursue a Special Development Order (SDO) from MHCLG. In other cases where the use has extended beyond 12 months, the Home Office have utilised the SDO route. As you note, if you have concerns that the Home Office may extend the period, those concerns should be directed to the Home Office.

I trust that you will find these answers helpful.

Yours sincerely



Chris Bending
Director of Place

cc Ms Mims Davies MP, Dr Kieran Mullan MP, Cllr James Partridge, Cllr Rachel Millward, Cllr Ian Tysh