Wealden
District Council

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

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

28 October 2025
[redacted]@wealden.gov.uk
www.wealden.gov.uk
01323 443322

Dear Ms Ghani

We are writing in response to your statement on the media reports today regarding the temporary use by the Home Office of the Crowborough Training Camp to house asylum seekers.

Wealden and other local public sector partners (including Police, Fire, NHS and County Council) were notified confidentially by the Home Office on 10 October that it was considering the use of the Crowborough Training Camp as a site for transitional accommodation for asylum seekers from late November 2025.

The first written confirmation, in the form of a briefing note for the council and key partners by Home Office officials, was received late morning today, over 12 hours after the news had broken in the national media.

The Home Office stressed the confidential nature of this information (including today's briefing note). During these briefings, when we pressed the Home Office that you, as the local MP, should be notified we were informed that this was a matter for the Home Office.

The Home Office have indicated that they are the lead agency for resettlement and that any decisions regarding the use of the Crowborough Training Camp are made by the Ministry of Defence and the Home Office alone. The Home Office have also indicated that the council has no direct role in supporting asylum seekers after their arrival.

Notwithstanding this, the council and our local public sector partners have been pressing the Home Office for further details on their proposals and assurances that the necessary arrangements will be put in place to ensure that their proposals have as little impact on the community, in particular on community tensions, as possible. We will continue to press them on this.

We wrote to the Minister of State for Migration and Citizenship on 22 October 2025 to make it clear that local people will be rightly concerned about the effect which using Crowborough Camp as asylum accommodation will have on them on the wider area and to urge him to plan accordingly, including through proactive communication with our community. We are yet to receive a response. A copy of the letter is attached.

It was therefore disappointing that the council were not given advance notice that the news would be made public so that we could work with the Home Office and other partners to provide our residents with the information and assurances they deserve. We have also pressed the Home Office on the plans for consultation, which although mentioned in the national media, has not been discussed with us to date.

We have nevertheless today worked at pace to issue information in the form of a dedicated webpage and FAQs, which can be found at www.wealden.gov.uk/crowborough-army-camp.

We are keen to work with all partners to ensure that our community receives all the support it needs to deal with the decision of the Home Office.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Cllr James Partridge
Leader of the Council and Governance, Waste and Local Economy Portfolio Holder