Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
c o Government Legal Department
102 Petty France
London SW1H 9GL

For the attention of the case lawyer and EIA screening case officer
By email to: [redacted]

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

Dear Secretary of State

**Crowborough Army Training Camp, Crowborough, TN6 1UB**
**Request for copies of the EIA screening request and all supporting material**

I write on behalf of Wealden District Council in its capacity as the local planning authority for the area in which the Crowborough Training Camp is situated and as an Interested Party in claim AC 2025 LON 004456.

On 15 December 2025 the Council wrote to the Home Office and the Ministry of Defence as part of investigating allegations of possible breaches of planning control. In those we requested confirmation of any EIA screening direction or any screening request, and seeking copies of the direction or request and the material that supported it. The responses received to date have not provided the requested material and have continued to state that no decision has been made on the proposed use of the site.

We have now seen the Second Defendant's Summary Grounds of Defence dated 31 December 2025 which state that, on 18 December 2025, the Secretary of State for the Home Department sent the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government a formal request to make a screening direction under regulation 5(6)(b) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, updated on 22 December 2025. The Summary Grounds further record that the request seeks a determination as to whether the use of the Crowborough Training Camp for asylum accommodation, specifically to accommodate up to 540 people for a period of up to one year together with the installation of associated site infrastructure, would be EIA development, and that you aim to issue the screening direction within 21 days if possible.

In those circumstances, and given the stated timescale, the Council requests as a matter of urgency copies of the following information and documents:

1. The screening request submitted by the Secretary of State for the Home Department on 18 December 2025 and the updated version submitted on 22 December 2025.
2. All supporting information that accompanied either version of the request, including any project description, site plans, drawings, schedules of works, specifications, operational details, and any environmental information relied upon.
3. Any correspondence between departments concerning the screening request, including any requests for clarification or further information and any responses, and any record of what information has been treated as before the decision maker.
4. Any consultee responses received to date, and any list of consultees approached or proposed to be approached in connection with the screening direction.

The purpose of this request is straightforward. The Council needs to review the material that is before you so officers can consider whether it is necessary and appropriate to submit representations to you on the screening request before a screening direction is issued, or whether to await the screening direction and then consider next steps. Given the nature of the site and the sensitivity of the surrounding environment, having timely sight of the request and supporting material is important to ensure the Council can discharge its planning and environmental responsibilities properly.

If any of the requested information is considered sensitive, please let us know immediately and we will agree an appropriate handling arrangement so that the Council can review the material securely.

Given the stated aim to determine within 21 days, we would be grateful to receive the requested information as soon as possible and in any event within five working days of this letter. If that is not possible, please confirm the earliest date by which it will be provided and whether you will extend the determination timetable to allow the Council a reasonable opportunity to consider and, if necessary, make representations.

Please also confirm the name and contact details of the official leading on the screening direction, so that any representations can be directed correctly.

Yours sincerely



**Chris Bending**
Director of Place

cc [redacted], MoD Property Law Team ([redacted]@mod.gov.uk)