Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

[redacted]
Deputy Director
Crown Development & Special Projects
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Chris Bending
Wealden District Council
Vicarage Lane
Hailsham
East Sussex
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Our reference: PCU/RARE/C1435/3379159

6 October 2026

Dear Chris,

The Town and Country Planning (Crown Development) (Urgent Applications) (Procedure) (England) Order 2025

Application by the Home Office for the continued use of Crowborough Training Camp as non-detained asylum accommodation for up to 540 residents, with associated site infrastructure, for a temporary period until 22 January 2030.

Thank you for your letter of 3 September 2026 relating to the Urgent Crown Development application for Crowborough Training Camp.

The application for the proposed development was submitted by the Home Office on 3 September 2026 to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government under the Urgent Crown Development provisions contained in section 293B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Article 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Crown Development) (Urgent Applications) (Procedure) (England) Order 2025.

As you note, section 293B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires the Secretary of State to consider whether the proposed development is of 'national importance', and whether it is necessary that the development is carried out as a matter of 'urgency', before agreeing to determine an application under that procedure. The criteria set out in the Crown Development Written Ministerial Statement (13 February 2025) will be considered in making this determination.

The Council's representations concerning the requirement in section 293B(6)(b), including those relating to the chronology of events, the operation of the site, the availability of alternative planning routes and the request for further information to be obtained under section 293B(8), have been noted. These representations will be placed before the Secretary of State and considered, together with all other relevant material, before any decision is made on whether the application should be accepted for determination under section 293B.

I cannot comment on the merits of any future application, the evidence that may accompany it, or any conclusions that the Secretary of State may ultimately reach. Any determination will be made in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the Town and Country Planning (Crown Development) (Urgent Applications) (Procedure) (England) Order 2025 and having regard to all relevant information submitted by interested parties and the applicant.

Thank you for taking the time to set out the Council's views.

Yours sincerely,



Deputy Director (Crown Development & Special Projects)