Wealden District Council

[redacted]
MOD Property Law Team
Commercial Law Group
Ministry of Defence
By email: [redacted]@mod.gov.uk

5 August 2026
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Dear [redacted]

Crowborough Barracks, Crowborough Training Camp, Crowborough

Thank you for your letter of 3 August 2026 in response to our letter of 15 June 2026.

Your response confirms that the Ministry of Defence and the Home Office have agreed to extend the Home Office's use of Crowborough Training Camp until January 2030, subject to appropriate planning permission.

That confirmation is helpful. However, it answers only whether an extension has been agreed. It does not answer why the Ministry of Defence changed its previous position, which was the specific question raised in our letter.

As our letter explained, the Ministry of Defence had previously stated that the site was being offered for a maximum period of 12 months and was required for Ministry of Defence use thereafter. The Council therefore asked why, and on what basis, the Ministry of Defence subsequently agreed that the Home Office could continue to use the site until January 2030.

May I press you to provide a substantive response to that question. In particular, please explain what changed in the Ministry of Defence's requirement for the site and what considerations led it to conclude that the site could remain available to the Home Office until January 2030.

This ought not to be a complicated matter to explain. The fact that the extension has been agreed is already in the public domain, having been disclosed in the judicial review proceedings, and has now been confirmed in your letter. It should therefore be possible to provide a clear explanation of the reasons for the change in position without disclosing information that is sensitive or otherwise properly confidential.

Your statement that relevant stakeholders will be engaged as the process continues concerns future engagement. It does not explain the basis for the decision which has already been taken.

We are not seeking extensive documentation or sensitive operational detail. A concise explanation of what changed and why the Ministry of Defence agreed to extend the availability of the site would answer the Council's question.

I would be grateful for a response within seven days.

In the interests of keeping the public informed, the Council will publish this letter and any response on its website alongside the existing correspondence relating to Crowborough Training Camp. I am also copying this correspondence to Nusrat Ghani MP, as the Member of Parliament for Sussex Weald

Yours sincerely



Stacey Robins
Head of Planning and Environmental Services

cc Nusrat Ghani, Member of Parliament for Sussex Weald