Andrew Larter
Asylum Accommodation Delivery Director,
Head of the Asylum Accommodation Taskforce
Home Office
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By email: [redacted]

Wealden District Council

15 June 2026
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01323 443322

Dear Mr Larter

Crowborough Army Training Camp, Crowborough, TN6 1UB

I am writing to you to seek your urgent clarification regarding the Home Office's intentions for the use of Crowborough Training Camp ("CTC").

On 22 May 2026, in ongoing judicial review proceedings brought by Crowborough Shield, the Home Office filed the second witness statement of Ella Hawkey-D'Aeth together with Exhibit EHD2 (the "Exhibit") (references in square brackets in this letter are to the pages of the Exhibit).

The Exhibit included a Ministerial submission of 15 January 2026, which led to the final decision to use CTC (i.e. the decision under challenge by Crowborough Shield in the current JR). The Ministerial submission of 15 January 2026 refers to the fact that the Home Office "***are seeking MoD agreement to extend***" the period to which the Memorandum of Terms of Occupation with the Ministry of Defence ("MoD") applies (see para 2 [87]). According to the Home Office's detailed grounds of resistance in the Crowborough Shield claim, the Home Office made a request for an extension on 16 April 2026, and that was agreed by the MoD on 30 April 2026. The extension would allow the Home Office to use CTC until 2030.

The Home Office's final decision to use CTC was predicated on use for a maximum of 12 months. In order for the use to be compliant with planning control it relied on Class Q Part 19 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (the "GPDO"). Under Class Q.1.(b) it is a condition of the planning permission granted by the GPDO that the use of land for a purpose of Class Q ceases on or before the expiry of the period of 12 months beginning with the date on which the development began (November 2025). Accordingly, Class Q does not authorise the use of CTC for asylum accommodation for more than 12 months. This means that some other planning permission would be required to authorise the use of CTC for asylum accommodation for the extended period of use agreed with the MoD.

In light of the recent information about an extension being agreed with the MoD and the potential longer term use of CTC, please explain:

(1) What are the Home Office's intentions for the use of CTC, including the length of time that the Home Office intends or is contemplating using CTC for asylum accommodation; and

(2) How the Home Office proposes to ensure compliance with planning control, including whether the Home Office has begun to prepare, or intends to prepare, a Special Development Order.

(3) The disclosed Home Office document ***MoD Sites – Planning Options*** refers to a "long term solution for planning at MoD sites", but is completely redacted as irrelevant [19]. In light of the fact that the Home Office is now apparently considering a longer term use, I request that you provide an unredacted version of this document or otherwise explain the planning options under consideration.

It would be helpful to have a response to each of the questions above as soon as possible, and in any event within seven days.

In the interests of transparency, and of keeping the public informed, I shall arrange for a copy of this letter to be published on the Council's website. I am also copying it to Nusrat Ghani MP, as the Member of Parliament for Sussex Weald.

Yours sincerely



Chris Bending
Director of Place

cc Nusrat Ghani, Member of Parliament for Sussex Weald