[redacted]
MOD Property Law Team
Commercial Law Group
Ministry of Defence
By email: [redacted]

15 June 2026
chris.bending@wealden.gov.uk
www.wealden.gov.uk
01323 443322

Dear [redacted]

Crowborough Barracks, Crowborough Training Camp, Crowborough

I am writing to you regarding the Ministry of Defence's ("MoD") apparent agreement to extend the agreement it has with the Home Office for the Home Office to use 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 MoD's apparent decision to agree to extend the period to which the Memorandum of Terms of Occupation ("the MOTO") applies, presumably by way of an amendment to clause 4 of the MOTO, the disclosed version of which refers to an end date of 26 October 2026

The MoD's previous position was that it would allow occupation of CTC for only 12 months: see, e.g., the Accounting Office advice appended to the Ministerial Submission of 30 October 2025 ("the site is offered for a maximum of 12 months" [48]; "the site being used for longer than the agreed 12 months…is unlikely, given MoD have stated 12 months is the maximum on offer" [57]). MoD representatives confirmed verbally to WDC senior officers at the first site visit to the camp that the site was offered to the Home Office for 12 months and 12 months only as it was needed for MoD use thereafter. The Home Office Deputy Director of Asylum

Accommodation confirmed at our Scrutiny & Performance Committee on the 10 November 2025 that the site was 'offered on a 12 month fixed period'. The disclosed Home Office submissions reflect this, repeatedly referring to a 12 month period of occupation as did the initial public facing factsheet on the Gov website.

Please would you explain why, and on what basis, the decision has been taken to extend the period to which the MOTO applies? In particular, please explain why the MoD has extended the duration of the MOTO when previously it had apparently stated to the Home Office that 12 months is the maximum on offer.

It would be helpful to have a response 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