Home Office

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Paul Canning
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DECS Reference: MIN/1573765/26
Your Reference: PCU/RARE/C3105/3378843

19 October 2026

Dear Mr Canning,

Thank you for your letter of 16 September about proposed asylum accommodation at Ministry of Defence (MoD) Bicester Site.

I recognise the strength of feeling reflected in Bicester Town Council's submission and note the concerns raised about the scale and suitability of the proposal, its potential impact on local services and communities and the planning process being followed.

MoD Bicester Site A is no longer in active use by the MoD. The UK Government is considering using this former military site to accommodate people seeking asylum. If taken forward, it would provide basic, safe accommodation and would be designed to be largely self-sufficient to minimise any impact on the local community. The safety and security of the local community, the staff who work there and those accommodated on the site would be of the utmost importance. There would be a specialist and experienced provider of security services permanently on site 24/7, as well as security systems including CCTV monitoring and recording, if the site is taken forward.

The Home Office regularly works in collaboration with local authorities and other partners, including police, to ensure that accommodation sites are successfully managed and the impact upon the local community is minimised. This includes a comprehensive and ongoing approach to identifying and managing any public protection or safeguarding risks associated with individuals. If the site is taken forward, the Home Office would engage regularly with representatives from the relevant local authorities, NHS, police forces and local partners via multi-agency forums to address the concerns of those most impacted by the site and to identify ways to keep them informed.

To confirm, no decision has been made in respect of the use of MoD Bicester for asylum accommodation. Suitability assessments are ongoing and will consider a range of factors, including safety, operational requirements, planning considerations and potential impacts on local services and communities. The Home Office will continue to engage with relevant stakeholders as this work progresses.

I recognise Bicester Town Council's concerns regarding the potential impact on neighbouring communities. As part of the ongoing assessment process, the Home Office is considering the implications for local services, infrastructure and communities, including

any relevant impacts beyond local authority boundaries, and will continue to engage with affected stakeholders as this work progresses. The latest public information is available on the MoD Bicester factsheet, which is updated regularly on GOV.UK at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-accommodation-at-military-sites-factsheets/mod-bicester-site-a-oxfordshire-factsheet.

Thank you once again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon Anna Turley MP
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