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MOD Bicester Site A – Objection to the Use of the Urgent Planning Process

Source file	MOD Bicester Site A Objection to the Use of the Urgent Planning Process.msg
From	[redacted]
To	matthew.pennycook.mp@parliament.uk; Ministerial Correspondence; Tim McNally; Calum Miller MP

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Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing as a local resident to formally object to the use of the urgent planning process in relation to the proposal to accommodate up to 1,250 single adult male asylum seekers at Site A, MOD Bicester.

On 9 July, my Member of Parliament, Calum Miller, was informed by a Defence Minister that the Home Office first approached the Ministry of Defence regarding the use of this site in November 2025.

This information raises serious questions about the justification for treating the proposal as an "urgent" planning matter.

The Government has therefore had approximately nine months to consider the suitability of this site, the scale and nature of the proposed accommodation, the implications for local infrastructure and public services, and the concerns of the communities that would be directly affected. Yet local residents and their elected representatives are now being given only a matter of days to consider and respond to a proposal of exceptional scale and significance.

That is neither reasonable nor proportionate.

The proposed accommodation of up to 1,250 single adult men would have a substantial impact on the surrounding community and would place additional demands on local services, including healthcare, policing, transport and other public infrastructure. It is also a proposal that has generated considerable concern and opposition locally.

Given the scale and potential consequences of the proposal, it is essential that local residents, the Parish and District Councils, health authorities, police and other relevant public bodies are given adequate information and a meaningful opportunity to scrutinise and respond to it.

The Government cannot reasonably spend nine months considering this proposal and then seek to compress the democratic and planning process into a matter of days by invoking urgency.

If the circumstances were genuinely urgent, one would reasonably expect the Government to have acted much sooner. The fact that the Home Office first approached the MOD in November 2025 strongly suggests that there has been ample opportunity for this matter to be considered through the normal planning process.

I therefore respectfully but firmly request that you withdraw consent for this proposal to be dealt with under the urgent planning procedure and require that the normal planning process is followed.

This is not simply a technical planning matter. It concerns a proposal that could fundamentally affect the character, infrastructure, services and day to day lives of the communities surrounding MOD Bicester Site A.

Local people should not be denied a meaningful opportunity to have their views heard simply because the Government has chosen to delay its decision-making and subsequently designate the matter as urgent.

Those of us who live here will live with the consequences of this decision. We therefore deserve a fair, transparent and properly conducted planning process in which our concerns can be properly considered.

I urge you to reconsider the use of the urgent procedure and ensure that the normal planning safeguards and opportunities for local consultation are respected.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

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[redacted]

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