From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: MOD Bicester (Site A)
Date: 07 September 2026 09:57:17
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I am writing to formally object to the Home Office's proposal to accommodate up to 1,250 asylum seekers at the Bicester Garrison site between Piddington and Upper Arncott
I am one of many local residents who believes this proposal should not proceed A local petition opposing this development has attracted over 10,000 signatures, demonstrating the overwhelming opposition from people who live in and around the affected area This level of public concern cannot simply be ignored
The first issue is the complete lack of consultation Cherwell District Council has publicly confirmed that it was not consulted by the Home Office before this proposal was announced and only became aware of it shortly before it entered the public domain Residents have also been presented with a decision that appears to have been made without any meaningful engagement with those whose lives will be directly affected This is not how decisions of this magnitude should be made
The proposal would create one of the largest asylum accommodation sites in the country, housing approximately 1,250 people in a small rural community Such a significant increase in population will inevitably place additional pressure on local GP surgeries, NHS services, policing, emergency services, roads and other infrastructure To date, residents have not been provided with any detailed impact assessments explaining how these services will cope, how they will be funded, or what additional resources will be provided
The Government has repeatedly stated that local communities should have confidence in the asylum system However, confidence cannot exist where transparency is lacking Residents have been given very little information about how the site will operate, what security measures will be in place, how people will be supported, or what arrangements will exist to minimise the impact on the surrounding communities
Many residents are also deeply concerned about the financial implications of this proposal Across the country, British citizens are facing sustained pressure from rising taxes, increasing food prices, higher energy bills, expensive housing, and the ongoing cost of living crisis Families are struggling to make ends meet, pensioners are choosing between heating and eating, and many hardworking people are finding it increasingly difficult to provide for their families despite paying ever more in taxation
At the same time, homelessness remains a serious issue throughout the United Kingdom Thousands of British citizens are sleeping rough or living in temporary accommodation, while many veterans, vulnerable adults and families remain on lengthy waiting lists for housing and support services It is understandable that many taxpayers question why substantial public funds are being allocated to large-scale asylum accommodation when many existing social challenges affecting UK citizens remain unresolved
I recognise that the United Kingdom has legal and humanitarian obligations towards those seeking asylum However, those obligations should be balanced with the needs of British citizens and the capacity of local communities Many people feel that the Government's priorities have become disconnected from the everyday realities faced by ordinary taxpayers who are struggling with the rising cost of living while seeing increasing demands placed on public services
Furthermore, concentrating over one thousand people awaiting asylum decisions in a single location raises legitimate questions about community integration, infrastructure and long-term sustainability A development of this scale is unlike anything our local area has previously experienced and should not proceed without comprehensive evidence demonstrating that it can operate safely and without placing unacceptable pressure on local services
Perhaps most concerning is the growing sense that the Government is no longer listening to the people it represents The petition signed by over 10,000 people, the concerns expressed by Cherwell District Council regarding the lack of consultation, and the widespread opposition from local residents all demonstrate that this proposal lacks community support Many of us have lost faith in the Government's willingness to listen to the concerns of ordinary citizens Decisions that fundamentally change communities should not be imposed without meaningful public engagement
I therefore respectfully ask the Home Office to:
• Withdraw the proposal for Bicester Garrison in its current form
• Undertake a full and meaningful public consultation before any further decisions are made
• Publish independent impact assessments covering policing, healthcare, education, transport, utilities and local infrastructure
• Clearly explain what additional funding will be provided to local services should any proposal proceed
• Consider alternative accommodation arrangements that do not involve concentrating such a large number of people in one rural location
This letter is not written out of hostility towards individuals seeking asylum It is written because I believe the Government has a duty to protect the interests of the communities it serves, to spend public money responsibly, and to ensure that major decisions are made transparently and democratically
I urge you to reconsider this proposal and to demonstrate that the voices of local residents genuinely matter

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

On Thu, 3 Sept 2026, 16:44 Crown Casework, <crowncasework@communities gov uk> wrote:

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Thank you for your letter of representation regarding the above application We will publish your representation on Urgent Crown Development application: MOD Bicester (Site A) - GOV UKUK website in due course

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Planning Casework Division

Chief Planner's Directorate

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