From: [redacted]
To: Crown Casework
Subject: Proposed Asylum Accommodation at the Former MoD Storage Site Near Piddington
Date: 07 September 2026 16:29:24
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[redacted]

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to formally express my strong opposition to the government's proposal to house approximately 1,250 asylum seekers at the former MoD storage site adjacent to Piddington. I write not only as a resident of the local area, but as [redacted]

While I recognise the national challenge of accommodating asylum seekers and support the need for a compassionate approach, this specific proposal raises fundamental concerns about proportionality, practicality, and suitability that I believe have not been adequately considered.

Overwhelming Scale and Community Imbalance

Piddington village has a population of approximately 300 people. The proposal would introduce more than four times that number of individuals into our immediate vicinity. As one resident of a similarly affected village put it, "This isn't about wealth, this is about the ability of a very small place to absorb a very large number of people". A community of this size simply cannot reasonably absorb such a large population without fundamentally altering its character.

A Unique Business Concern: The Scrap Metal Operation

I wish to draw particular attention to a concern that may not have been considered in the Home Office's assessment. [redacted] Scrap metal yards, by their nature, handle significant quantities of valuable metals, and the presence of over 1,200 individuals in such proximity, many of whom will be free to come and go from the site, raises legitimate security concerns for my business operations. The site's isolated rural location, with no street lighting and limited footpaths, has already been identified as presenting safety risks. This isolation would make security monitoring more challenging for local businesses in the vicinity.

Proven Negative Impact on Local Communities

The experience of other communities hosting similar large-scale asylum centres provides compelling evidence of the impact we can expect. At RAF Wethersfield in Essex, which houses a similar number of asylum seekers, local residents have reported:

Collapsing property values and unsellable homes: The local MP confirmed that "house sales have collapsed" and new families are not moving into the area . One resident who lived yards from the site said: "We actually put our house on the market... It wouldn't sell, it won't sell now. You're kind of trapped".

Pressure on local schools: The local primary school has seen falling pupil numbers and is now "at risk of closure due to financial and viability" concerns . Parents are increasingly unwilling to send their children to the school.

Anti-social behaviour: Residents have reported groups of asylum seekers roaming country roads, with some describing incidents of "defecating" in fields near homes and attacks on moving vehicles . A local MP noted that "groups of bored young men in any circumstances are intimidating" .

Impact on local businesses: Local shopkeepers have reported declining footfall . As a local business owner myself, this is a significant concern for the viability of my operation.

Isolation and Poor Infrastructure

The site's remote location means that those accommodated there are "prevented from having a sense of community and opportunities for integration" . This isolation has been shown to have serious mental health impacts, with residents describing the environment as like a "prison" and reporting that it triggers memories of past trauma.

The Home Office's own assessment acknowledges that "as this is a rural location there is no street lighting; this has the potential for accidents once the site is occupied". The lack of transport links means that residents are transported to surrounding towns, placing pressure on those communities as well.

Environmental and Suitability Concerns

The site's history as an MoD storage facility raises significant environmental concerns. Reports on similar ex-MoD sites have identified "20 potential sources of contamination" due to historic use, and assessments have recommended that "more detailed than usual contamination surveys will be required to determine the location, extent and type of contamination". This is of relevance to my business, given our proximity and our handling of metal waste.

Lack of Meaningful Consultation

The community has not been properly consulted on these proposals. Similar situations have been described by the Prime Minister himself as "disrespectful to impose it on local people without their consent and consultation". The residents of Piddington have felt so disenfranchised that they are holding a referendum on leaving the UK altogether.

My Conclusion

I firmly believe that this proposal is the wrong solution for our community, for the individuals who would be accommodated here, and for the principle of community integration. The proven negative impacts on local housing markets, schools, businesses, and community cohesion cannot be ignored.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns with you further and to demonstrate why this site is fundamentally unsuitable for this purpose, particularly given my business's proximity and the unique security challenges this proposal presents.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

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