[redacted]

From: Melise Witkin [redacted]
Sent: 13 September 2026 11:05
To: Crown Casework
Subject: Piddington

[redacted] [redacted]

[redacted]

DearSir/Madam,

I am writing to formally object to the proposal to accommodate up to 2,550 asylum seekers in or around Piddington.

I want to make clear that my objection is not directed at people seeking asylum. I recognise that individuals fleeing persecution and conflict need appropriate accommodation and support. My concern is whether Piddington is a suitable location for a development of this unprecedented scale and whether the impact on the existing community has been properly considered.

The scale is completely disproportionate

Piddington is a small rural community. Accommodating up to350 people, [redacted]. The proposed 2,250 all male asylum seekers would represent a population many times the size of the village itself. This is not a modest addition to the local population; it would fundamentally alter the character and functioning of the community.

A development of this magnitude should not be imposed on a small village without compelling evidence that the location is suitable and that the necessary infrastructure and services are capable of supporting it.

Pressure on local infrastructure and services

There are serious questions about the capacity of local roads, public transport, healthcare, emergency services, policing and other essential services to cope with such a substantial increase in population.

Before any decision is made, there should be independent and transparent assessments of:

- Local healthcare capacity
- Police and emergency-service provision
- Road and pedestrian safety
- Public transport
- Local amenities and services
- Waste, water and other essential infrastructure
- The financial and practical impact on local authorities

It would be irresponsible to approve such a large development without demonstrating that these issues can be adequately addressed.

Road and pedestrian safety

Piddington is a rural community where roads and pedestrian infrastructure were not designed to accommodate a sudden population increase of this scale.

Particular attention must be given to pedestrian safety, road capacity, public transport and access to neighbouring villages and services. Any proposal should be supported by a comprehensive, independently verified transport and safety assessment.

Impact on the local community

Residents have legitimate concerns about the effect of such a large development on the character, tranquillity and cohesion of the village.

These concerns should not be dismissed or characterised as hostility towards asylum seekers. Local residents have a right to raise questions about a proposal that could fundamentally change their community.

The government has a responsibility both to provide appropriate asylum accommodation and to ensure that the burden of doing so is not disproportionately placed on a small rural community.

Lack of meaningful consultation

Residents should have a genuine opportunity to understand the proposal, examine the evidence and express their views before any decision is taken.

There must be complete transparency regarding the proposed numbers, length of stay, security arrangements, staffing, healthcare provision, transport arrangements and the anticipated impact on local services.

A decision of this scale must not be presented to residents as a fait accompli.

Proper safeguarding and security arrangements are essential

Any accommodation facility of this size requires robust safeguarding and security arrangements. Residents should be provided with clear information about staffing levels, security, policing, emergency procedures and how concerns will be dealt with.

These arrangements should be established and independently assessed before the facility becomes operational.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, I strongly object to the proposed accommodation of up to 2,250 asylum seekers in Piddington.

I respectfully ask that the proposal be reconsidered and that a full, independent assessment of its impact on the local community, infrastructure, transport, healthcare, policing and emergency services be undertaken.

If the government believes that Piddington is genuinely suitable for a development of this scale, it should provide residents with the evidence demonstrating why.

Piddington should not be expected to absorb a population several times the size of its own without proper consultation, adequate infrastructure and convincing evidence that the proposal is safe, sustainable and proportionate.

I therefore ask that my objection be formally recorded and fully considered before any final decision is made.

Yours faithfully,

Melise Witkin

13.09.2026