Councillor Dr Timothy Faltermeyer
[redacted]

Monday, 28 September 2026

Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government
crowncasework@communities.gov.uk

Dear Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Reference: Asylum Accommodation, Site A, Bicester Garrison, Launton Road, Oxfordshire, OX25 1AE

PCU/RARE/C3105/3378843

I am a [redacted], which is [redacted] is predominantly a rural area, covering 122 square kilometres, with a total population of under [redacted].

The people [redacted], have consistently expressed to me that the proposal to utilise Site A, MOD Bicester for up to 1256 Asylum Seekers is wrong, and it is wrong for many different reasons. To date, [redacted], that they consider the proposal to be suitable.

The objections are multiple, and I shall outline a small number, and many objections will have been submitted relating to why the proposal is wrong for the people who live within the area, including residents from [redacted], and slightly further away including [redacted], [redacted], continuing to parishes and towns, such as [redacted] and Bicester.

The proposed application by the Home Office in using the site for accommodating male Asylum Seekers has been determined to be 'urgent' and of 'national security', despite having used hotels to house the very same (and similar) asylum seekers. This 'urgent Crown development' is being taken through relevant legislative processes[1], [2] even though the Home Office has been undertaking work on this site since for at least 10 months in preparation to achieve a positive outcome to the proposal.

I confirm that I oppose this planning application for many reasons, and in this letter to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government I will focus on the Asylum Seekers because there will be other contributions from others such as written comments by Cherwell District Council, Piddington Parish Council and Oxfordshire County Council. I am aware that these three consultees will focus on the following policy / legal documents, and whilst I also have read and taken account of the material contained within them, I shall leave detailed objection to the Planning Application based on the policies / legal documentation to the statutory bodies. Policy / Legal Documents including:

(1) Cherwell Local Plan 2011 – 2013 (Part 1) published 2015
(2) Cherwell Local Plan 1996 (Saved Policies) Published 1996
(3) Cherwell Local Plan Review (2042) which is currently being examined
(4) National Planning Policy Framework (2026)
(5) Crown Development and Urgent Crown Development Guidance
(6) Town and Country Planning Act 1990
(7) Town and Country Planning (Crown Development) (Urgent Applications) (Procedure) (England) (Order) 2025
(8) Human Rights Act 1998
(9) European Convention of Human Rights

[1] Town and Country Planning Act (1990) Section 293B and Section 293C. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/part/XIII/crossheading/application-of-act-as-respects-crown-land [Accessed, September 9 2026]
[2] Town and Country Planning (Crown Development) (Urgent Applications) (Procedure) (England) Order 2025. SI411. London. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2025/411/contents/made [Accessed September 10 2026]

Location

Site A, MOD Bicester, is located within a rural countryside, and is beside a main road, with a speed limit of 50mph, and has no pavements on which a member of the public may walk. The nearest village is less than 5 minutes away (700m), although any pedestrian walking to the village must walk on the main road. [redacted] is a very small parish with approximately 350 residents. It has no shops, no social areas such as a public house, cinema or sports facility, and indeed the only venue suitable for anyone to visit is the village hall or [redacted]. [redacted] was mentioned in the Domesday Book when the village was owned by Hakun, although within 20 years Countess Judith appears to have taken over the ownership of the area.

Many other letters of objection will focus on issues relevant to residents of [redacted] and the wider area. I intend to concentrate primarily on the difficulties for Asylum Seekers if they are to be based at Site A, should the Planning Application be approved.

Asylum Seekers

A person may claim for Asylum if recognised by the Refugee Convention[3]. The Government state that an "Asylum Seeker is someone who is applying for recognition as a refugee".[4] A report to the Home Office in 2016, questioned if the Home Office was using the most efficient methods to deport who do not have the right to remain in the United Kingdom.[5] The concerns of relating to Site A MOD Bicester can be divided into two: those of the neighbouring communities and for the 1256 men who will be housed at the site. This section is related to the humanitarian aspect for those who have been detained / housed at Site A MOD Bicester awaiting decision following their application for asylum.

[3] Home Office (2016, updated 2026). Immigration Rules Part 11: Asylum (Paragraphs 326A to 352H). London. Home Office

[4] Home Affairs Committee (2025) The Home Office's Management of Asylum Accommodation. Fourth Report of Session 2024-2026. HC 580. London. House of Commons p4

[5] Shaw S (2016) Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons. A report to the Home Office. Cm 9186. London. Home Office

The duration of the time in which people will be detained on this site is unknown, although the Deputy Director of Detention Strategy and Programme claims that it is the intention to detain people for the shortest time possible although there are no plans to introduce a time limit on those who have been detained.[6] This lack of information is not helpful to ensure that those who have been detained are dealt with swiftly, robustly and within a reasonable timescale, nor does this provide assurance to the local villages who will be most affected by the opening of Site A MOD Bicester for 1256 single men. The Home Office have stated that a maximum length of stay for any of the Asylum Seekers may be introduced, although this will be subject to confirmation. Therefore, the turnover of men at Site A may be substantial, particularly as it is possible that some of those who will be taken to Site A may leave and not return, given that the men are not detained as this would be an illegal activity by the Home Office.

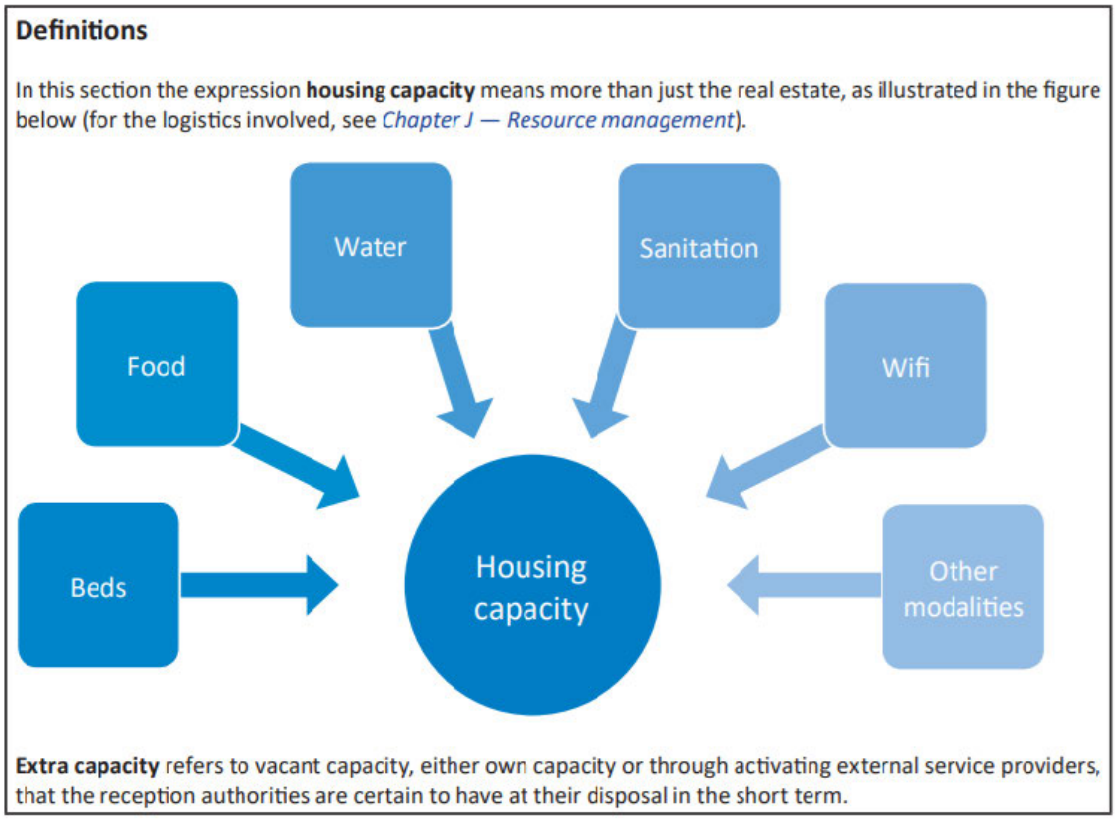
However, it is known that protection towards Asylum Seekers is only for a maximum of 28 days, and as the men to be housed at Site A MOD Bicester may be housed there for considerably longer, there will be no legal protection offered other than which is available to any citizen, tourist, visitor or student within the country.[7] Given that this Planning Application is to house 1256 single men on one very rural site, the Government will need to show how the United Kingdom will fulfil its obligations to adhere to the European Convention on Human Rights.[8] The Home Office has the responsibility to provide accommodation to those seeking asylum.[9]

Accommodation

Emergency accommodation is not a legal concept, and whilst it is unclear precisely what the term 'Emergency Accommodation' means, it therefore becomes an issue when 'Emergency Accommodation' ceases.[10] It follows that such emergency schemes

[6] Round W (2024) Letter to the Leader of Cherwell District Council. Immigration Enforcement, Croydon.
[7] UK Asylum Support Regulations (2000) Regulation 2(2) as amended by Section 3 Asylum Support (Amendment) Regulations 2002. UK Statutory Instruments. 2000. No 704. London. Home Office
[8] Council of Europe (2021) Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Strasbourg. Council of Europe
[9] Immigration and Asylum Act (1000) S95. London. HMSO
[10] Asylum Information Database (2019) Housing Out Of Reach? The Reception of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Europe. Strasbourg. European Council on Refugees and Exiles.

being created as a temporary solution become the norm and ultimately no longer 'emergency' or 'temporary'. Indeed, the European Asylum Support Office raised the point of housing asylum seekers and focused on the specific issues:



[11]

Those who will be housed are entitled to 'material reception conditions'[12], which focuses on housing, food and clothing[13]. This entitlement commences immediately following the application of asylum. It also reinforces that any asylum seeker is guaranteed protection for their physical and mental health.[14] This is also reflected in the 1951 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees[15]. In several other countries

[11] European Asylum Support Office (2018) EASO Guidance on Contingency Planning in the Context of Reception. EASO Practical Guides Series. P36 https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/guidance-contingency-planning-context-reception [Accessed, August 4 2026]
[12] Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection, OJ 2013 L180/96
[13] Article 2(g), Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection, OJ 2013 L180/96
[14] Article 17(2) Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection, OJ 2013 L180/96
[15] United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (1951) Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. Geneva. United Nations

within Europe, including France and Spain, there have been significant difficulties adhering to the legal framework of providing safe and appropriate accommodation for asylum seekers.[16]

In 2022, it was considered that the type of accommodation proposed at Site A will be a significant deterrent for those seeking Asylum in the United Kingdom, and only the basic, essential elements of living needs will be provided and.nothing.more¡[17]

The Home Office (2026) has stated that Site A MOD Bicester will provide catering, laundry, welfare, safeguarding and health care in the format of a triage for those who will be accommodated on site.[18] The argument that this will reduce pressure on local amenities is weak at best, given that the infrastructure, such as the water supply and sewage facilities is either absent or so poor that it will be difficult to deal with this substantial increase in demand. The men will require water for showering, washing of hands, using the laundry facilities – all of which will be in demand 24 hours a day. Local parishes, such as [redacted], already struggle with the poor water pressure and any increase will result in a breakdown of the supply.

This will be further exacerbated by the requirement to feed more than 1256 people at Site A three times a day. It must be recognised that staff who will be based at the site will also require food / refreshments and not only the male Asylum Seekers. This will require power (electricity) for cooking and heating water, the use of water in cooking and cleaning crockery, cutlery and cleaning the kitchens and areas for eating, as well as disposing of the dirty water from these activities. There are frequent electricity power cuts within the area, however, there are electricity power lines crossing the site where the Asylum Seekers will be living. Frequently power lines with a high voltage level emit

[16] Asylum Information Database (2019) Country Report France 2018, Update 2019. Strasbourg. European Council on Refugees and Exiles

[17] Home Office (2022) New Plan for Immigration: Policy Statement (accessible) Updated 29 March 2022 https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-plan-for-immigration/new-plan-for-immigration-policy-statement-accessible [Accessed August 7 2026]

[18] Home Office (2026) Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Section 1 MOD015 (Bicester). Bicester.Proposal. and.Operational.Context. London. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a915d379a177a1decf97b2d/Equality_Impact_Assessment.pdf [Accessed September 10 2026]

noise on a continual basis, and there is research evidence to suggest that there is a correlation between the development of leukaemia and other cancers and those living either under or very close to power lines.[19], [20], [21]. The Government has a duty under the European Court of Human Rights legislation to ensure that Article 2, 'Right to Life' is maintained.[22]

Further to this, the sewage system within Bicester is unable to cope with the current demands, and increasing this by adding Site A MOD Bicester, will generate extra difficulties. If the solution is to use lorries to transport the waste products, this will cause a significant increase in traffic movements to and from the site on a daily basis, in addition to the smell which will emerge from any system. The rather foul and unpleasant smell will not remain immediately beside the sewage system but will spread across the wider area and possibly towards the villages of [redacted].

All these issues which will directly affect those to be housed on site, are likely to add to a deterioration in social cohesion as well as an increase in racial tension.

Vulnerability of those to be housed / Effects of accommodating a large number of vulnerable individuals in an isolated institutional setting

The Home Office accepted that where someone is vulnerable, the person should screened and placed in a suitable location and not on a large site, such as Site A.[23] Despite this clear guidance, the screening methods are unlikely to identify a high proportion of those men who are vulnerable. Typical factors which indicate vulnerability are those with mental health issues, victims of torture, LGBTQ+ people, exploited

[19] Hensaw DL, Eatough JP, Richardson RB 1990) Evidence that Rado is a Causative Factor in Induction of Myeloid Leukaemia and Other Cancers The.Lancet.335, 8696, 1008-1012
[20] Bridges BA, Cole D, Arlett CF, Green MHL, Wough APW, Beare D, Henshaw DL, Last RD (1991) Possible Association between Mutant Frequency in Peripheral Lymphocytes and Domestic Radon Concentrations The.Lancet.337, 8751 1187-1189
[21] Eatough JP, Henshaw DL (1991) Radon Dose to the Skin and the Possible Introduction of Skin Cancers Radiation.Proection.Dosimetry.59, 1-3, 33-37
[22] Council of Europe (2021) Convention for the Protection of Human Rights. Article 2. Strasbourg. Council of Europe
[23] Home Office (2026) Modern Slavery: Statutory Guidance for England and Wales (under S49 of the Modern Slavery Act, 2015) and Non Statutory Guidance for Scotland and Northern Ireland. Version 4.6. London. Home Office

individuals including those who have been subject to Human Trafficking. It is recognised that those who have been tortured and are able to live in good accommodation have a lower level of mental health illness, whereas the reverse is true: the more people housed in an area, the greater incidence of mental health difficulties.[24]

Whilst the Government may consider the site to be self sufficient, it is inevitable that those to be housed there will seek activities to occupy their time, and due to its location, transport to and from the nearest town is essential. Should any of the men decide to walk to the nearest town, the route into either Bicester or [redacted] or [redacted] do not have any pavements and the roads leading away from Site A MOD Bicester all have speed limits which are extremely high, and there is no consideration for the safety and security for any of the 1256 men who may leave Site A as a pedestrian. These issues are important should the safety of the men be considered by the Government to be of any value.[25] However, the Home Office have determined that "there are no highways safety reasons that would make the site inappropriate for the proposed use" (p66).[26]

Further to this, Site A resembles a prison, and many of those who are likely to be housed there, have significant experience in previous detention centres and / or prisons where Asylum Seekers may have been previously detained, which triggers and re-traumatises those being housed in sites, such as Site A MOD Bicester.[27]

Site A is enclosed by high security fencing and is likely to require Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) which clearly reinforces a view of a prison. Whilst the 1256 will be able to move around Site A and also venture out from the premises, the fencing and CCTV will be required to ensure that the males on Site A have some relative security

[24] Whitsett DM Sherman MF (2017) Do Resettlement Variables Predict Psychiatric Treatment Outcomes in A Sample of Asylum-Seeking Survivors of Torture. Int.Journal.Soc.Psychiatry.63, 8, 674-685
[25] O'Leary J, Edwards S (2020) The Documented Impact on the Health and Welfare of Asylum Seekers Housed in Refugee Camps and Institutions: A Literature Review. London. Helen Bamber Foundation.
[26] Home Office |2026) Planning Proposal Statement MOD015. Former Defence Storage and Distribution Centre Site (MOD Bicester A – Site) Bicester Garrison, Launton Road, Oxfordshire, OX25 1AE. Technical Considerations. Section 7.8. P66. London. Home Office
[27] Dorling K, Harris M (2023) Ghettoised and Traumatised: The Experiences of Men Held in Quasi-Detention in Wethersfield. London. Helen Bamber Foundation

from outside influences and violent protests. However, balanced against this, must be the local residents of nearby villages who have a right for their private and family life, whilst at the same time, the detainees also have rights such as being cared for whilst detained.[28]

This vulnerability will be increased when leaving the site, whether on foot or by vehicle. There is already high tension within at least a 10km radius of the site against this proposal. The men leaving the site on foot will find that they are forced to walk on the main road which has a speed limit of 50mph, and whilst there are anecdotal reports that many vehicles exceed this speed limit, there have been some notable accidents including a fatality on the road within just a few meters of the access to Site A. Secondly, given that any male leaving the site may be targeted by vigilante groups, or indeed, any one who may be perceived to be an Asylum Seeker given the colour of skin, may find himself the subject of racial hatred at best, and at worst, serious physical violence. Although Thames Valley Police have a duty to prevent violence, they will be unable to monitor and patrol all and every area that each one of the 1256 men may be walking or visiting. Pedestrian safety is fundamental, yet, leaving this site, there are no pavements on the B4011, [redacted] or into any of the local villages.

Health

Indeed, one of the major concerns is relating to hygienic conditions and raises health risks for those seeking asylum and any staff employed to work on site with them.[29]

Health care facilities are minimal, and as many of the men have suffered trauma and discrimination before, and almost certainly after arriving at Site A, they are less likely to seek medical help, as they may perceive this to be authority using this against the claim for Asylum.

[28] Home Office. (1998) Human Rights Act 1998. C42. London. HMSO
[29] Asylum Information Database (2019) Country Report Slovenia 2018, Update 2019. Strasbourg. European Council on Refugees and Exiles

The Home Office acknowledges that provision of health care will need to be provided at Site A MOD Bicester, and whilst they state that one of the local General Practice practices has space to accommodate more patients[30], many patients from other areas, including Bicester and [redacted], frequently have difficulty in obtaining an appointment with their local General Practitioner and often must wait several weeks to secure such an appointment. Although it may be wise to have a triage system on site for the Asylum Seekers, having health care professionals taken away from the National Health Service on a regular / frequent basis will add to the anger towards those based at Site A MOD Bicester, despite the Home Office stating that this will not happen[31]

Given the lack of facilities, there is likely to be overcrowding which will affect the mental health and increase the potential of communicable diseases being spread amongst those being housed there, and in the wider population when leaving Site A and mixing with local residents or going into other villages or the larger towns, such as Bicester or [redacted].

In the report provided to the Home Office by the British Red Cross, they provided extracts which identified that housing large numbers of people who are required to share rooms, have seen health care partners running out of medication to treat scabies.[32]

Secondly, there is the strong possibility of being unable to communicate the issues clearly with the health care professional, even when an interpreter is present.

[30] Home Office |2026) Planning Proposal Statement MOD015. Former Defence Storage and Distribution Centre Site (MOD Bicester A – Site) Bicester Garrison, Launton Road, Oxfordshire, OX25 1AE. Planning Considerations, S6.12, p62. London. Home Office

[31] Home Office (2026) Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Section 4 Consideration of Aim 3 of the Duty: Fostering Good Relations Between People Who Share a Protected Characteristic and Persons Who Do Not Share It. Stakeholder.Engagement.p7❶?Local.Services.(Health.–.Emergency.Services.–.Local.Council). p7❸ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a915d379a177a1decf97b2d/Equality_Impact_Assessment.pdf [Accessed September 10 2026]

[32] Home Office (2025) Written Evidence Submitted by the British Red Cross (AAC0060). London. Home Office p8

Mental Health

There is a plethora of literature available exploring the impact of detention on mental health and there is a correlation between the trauma prior to arrival in the United Kingdom and of detention.[33] Other research studies show that immigration detention has a substantial impact upon the mental health of the detained person, and the longer the person stays in detention, the mental health of that person is likely to deteriorate even further.[34]

It is well documented that significant mental distress is caused to Asylum Seekers when housed in an isolated area.[35] This is partially due to the remote location and detachment from society, whilst additionally lack of facilities which merely increase tensions within those being housed.

Isolation is a major factor which is likely to affect the Mental Health and increase the vulnerability of those housed at Site A. The evidence from other similar sites, including Wethersfield, have shown that for many, every day is repetitive with nothing to do.

There is evidence to support that a site similar to the proposed one at MOD Bicester, causes additional pain and trauma to those who have already experienced conflict, oppression, torture, abuse and human trafficking.[36]

It should not be underestimated that the majority of Asylum Seekers may have already been exposed to considerable mental health difficulties which has led them to leave their homeland.[37]

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[33] Thompson M, McGorry P (1998) Maribyrnong Detention Centre Tamil Survey in.Silove D, Steel Z (Ed) The Mental Health and Wellbeing of On Shore Asylum Seekers in Australia. University of New South Wales. Psychiatry Research and Teaching Unit

[34] Bosworth M (2014) Inside Immigration Detention. Oxford. Oxford University Press

[35] Dorling K, Harris M (2023) Ghettoised and Traumatised: The Experiences of Men Held in Quasi-Detention in Wethersfield. London. Helen Bamber Foundation

[36] Dorling K, Harris M (2023) Ghettoised and Traumatised: The Experiences of Men Held in Quasi-Detention in Wethersfield. London. Helen Bamber Foundation

[37] Blackmore R, Boyle JA, Fazel M, Ranasinha S, Gray KM, Fitzgerald G, Misso M, Gibson-Helm M (2020) The Prevalance of Mental Illness in Refugees and Asylum Seekers: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1003337 [Accessed August 7 2026].

Many of these men may have experienced trauma before leaving their homeland and following departure and even after arrival in the United Kingdom, the lack of trauma focused support and health care will increase barriers for the men seeking and requiring health care, whether physical or mental health care.[38] Given the history of some of the men, it is highly probable that a significant number of them may be housed there, not only with a mental health illness, but also a physical disability.

Indeed within the United Kingdom there exists a significant stigma for men to disclose they are experiencing mental health illness, and yet the United Kingdom considers itself a highly advanced nation which cares for people with Mental Health difficulties. For some of the men who will be housed at Site A MOD Bicester, their experience of health care in their own country may have been poor with caring for people with Mental Health issues either non-existent or barely available.

Those with disabilities are not always seen in an acceptable way by their own community, increasing the person's vulnerability and potential for further exploitation, bullying and discrimination, and possible assaults including physical and / or sexual. The Home Office has a duty to ensure that anyone with a disability is safeguarded properly.[39]

Unlike the Community Sponsorship Scheme which is part of the Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (VPRS), there is no support being provided by communities within local villages and towns, to any of the men who will be housed at Site A MOD Bicester. The support offered by VPRS ranged from religious groups to any group who were willing to contribute guidance, support and friendship to those seeking asylum.[40] By excluding support groups, this is likely to increase the mental trauma and a deterioration in the Mental Health of some of the men to be housed at Site A. The

[38] Dorling K, Harris M (2023) Ghettoised and Traumatised: The Experiences of Men Held in Quasi-Detention in Wethersfield. London. Helen Bamber Foundation
[39] Home Affairs Committee (2025) The Home Office's Management of Asylum Accommodation. Fourth Report of Session 2024-2026. HC 580. London. House of Commons
[40] Citizens UK (unknown date) The Story of Community Sponsorship in the UK. https://www.sponsorrefugees.org/what-is-community-sponsorship/the-story-of-community-sponsorship-in-the-uk/ [Accessed, August 4 2026]

Home Office have stated that there will be "Migrant Help" which will provide advice, and that those based at Site A MOD Bicester, will have access to this support 24 hours a day.[41]However, there is ample evidence to show that on other sites where this has been provided, it has failed to provide sufficient robust support for those who require it.

Psychological well being

It has been noted that similar sites has seen a cumulative corrosive impact on both physical and mental health of those being housed.[42]

Vulnerability of the men housed at an quasi-detention site is likely to increase due to the isolation, lack of access to basic facilities including health care, legal services and activities. The proposal to house up to 1256 men on a relatively small site, may enhance the vulnerability, including those who have fled their own homeland due to hate, violence and threats of death particularly if identified as a member of the LGBTQ+ community. This vulnerability will not be reduced but increased as there will be those also on the site who will continue this hatred towards such individuals. Given that in their native homeland, protection from the state is completely missing, and they may have been targeted by the state, such men are likely to have an immediate apprehension about disclosing their vulnerability. However, the Home Office have stated very clearly that anyone who identifies as a member of the LGBTQ+ community will not require any other support, although they have recognised that they "may" be subject to prejudice.[43] Whilst the Home Office cites their own documentation, it fails to acknowledge that over 65 countries globally dictate that same sex relationships are criminal, and a significant number of these countries impose the death penalty, particularly on men who are members of the LGBTQ+ community, and therefore hardly likely to acknowledge at Site A MOD Bicester their sexual orientation due to fear,

[41] Home Office |2026) Planning Proposal Statement MOD015. Former Defence Storage and Distribution Centre Site (MOD Bicester A – Site) Bicester Garrison, Launton Road, Oxfordshire, OX25 1AE. P33. London. Home Office

[42] Jesuit Refugee Service (2023) Napier Barracks: The Inhumane Reality. An In-Depth Report of the Experiences of Men Held In Quasi-Detention at Napier Barracks. London. Jesuit Refugee Service (UK)

[43] Home Office (2026) Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Section 1: MOD015 (Bicester) Sexual Orientation (p11) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a915d379a177a1decf97b2d/Equality_Impact_Assessment.pdf [Accessed September 10 2026]

hostility and potential violence aimed towards them by members of their own nationality.[44]

The vulnerability is exacerbated by the lack of facilities. Whilst it is unknown what the living conditions will be, evidence from other sites, such as Napier Barracks, suggests that the majority of men are likely to sleep in dormitories with minimal privacy, high levels of noise, which prevents reflection, contemplation and makes it virtually impossible for private or confidential conversations. Sleep disturbance and sleep deprivation are likely to become common, increasing mental health issues, leading to an increase in vulnerability and / or violence.[45]

Some of the men will have been subject to torture and may have many scars on their body and with the lack of privacy, whether it is in the area of having to share bathrooms or indeed sleeping in dormitory conditions, having such scars being exposed can be both humiliating and degrading, in addition to being a continual reminder of the traumatic past.[46]

In 2024, a needs assessment was conducted on a similar large site by the British Red Cross and highlighted that the risk of suicide was substantial.[47]

Asylum Seekers may experience a sense of bereavement when forced to stay in an isolated area, where they may know no one, have no friends, be vulnerable, exploited, bullied or threatened by others. The lack of social opportunities for these people is exacerbated by the isolation of where they are housed, because of either relatively few

[44] Home Office (2024) Asylum Claims on the Basis of Sexual Orientation 2023. https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2024/asylum-claims-on-the-basis-of-sexual-orientation-2023 [Accessed September 10 2026]
[45] The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) (2021) All Party Parliamentary Group on Immigration Detention. Report of the Inquiry into quasi-detention. London. Medical Justice
[46] Dorling K, Harris M (2023) Ghettoised and Traumatised: The Experiences of Men Held in Quasi-Detention in Wethersfield. London. Helen Bamber Foundation
[47] Home Office (2025) Written Evidence Submitted by the British Red Cross (AAC0060). London. Home Office

social activities or nonavailable, which may lead to becoming involved in illegal drug taking as a coping strategy.[48]

It can be seen therefore, that using Site A is highly likely to have a negative effect on the Mental Health of many of those to be housed there, which may trigger an increase in self harm and / or suicide attempts, resulting in the involvement of additional health care resources.[49]

Modern Slavery / Trafficking

Where an individual has been identified through the National Referral Mechanism, there is a greater obligation on the Government to ensure that person is supported and safe. Yet, it is also revealed by the British Red Cross that despite this, people have been kidnapped and trafficked again. Site A will be housing up to 1256 single men, some of whom may have been trafficked and subject to modern slavery, and may continue to be vulnerable and targeted by others within the Site and external to the site, trafficked, intimidated and forced to undertake illegal activities as payment.[50] There are claims that this type of accommodation for Asylum Seekers increases the risk of being re-trafficked particularly if they have previously been the subject of trafficking.[51]

There is also a volume of evidence to show that those who seek Asylum and / or may have been subject to Human Trafficking have a much higher rate of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Depression, Anxiety, and a high significantly raised potential for substance misuse and suicide.[52], [53]

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[48] Phillimore J, Reyes Soto M (2019) Community Sponsorship in the UK: From Application to Integration. Birmingham. Formative Evaluation, July 2019 Interim Report. University of Birmingham Institute for Research into Superdiversity

[49] Hedrick K, Armstrong G, Coffey G, Borschmann R (2020) Self Harm Among Asylum Seekers in Australian onshore Immigration Detention: How Incidence Rates Vary by Held Detention Type. BMC. Public.Health.20, 1, 1-10

[50] Home Office (2025) Written Evidence Submitted by the British Red Cross (AAC0060). London. Home Office

[51] Home Office (2025) Written Evidence Submitted by the British Red Cross (AAC0060). London. Home Office

[52] Chesney E, Goodwin GM, Fazel S (2014) Risks of All Cause and Suicide Mortality in Mental Illness: A Meta-Review. World.Psychiatry.13, 153-160

[53] Bradvik L)2018) Suicide Risk and Mental Disorders. International.Journal.Environmental.Research.and. Public.Health.15, 9, 1-4

Community Cohesion

The Home Office has previously declared that community cohesion is a key priority although that responsibility is not theirs, but of the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.[54]

There is a wealth of evidence to suggest that there is a growing tension between resident communities and the use of Asylum accommodation, and indeed within the area surrounding Site A MOD Bicester, there have been increased anxieties amongst the local population, whether it is fear of safety for children, the elderly, perceived threats of violence and burglaries to people and homes within a small radius of Site A. An increase of 1256 single men fuels these anxieties and with it adds to the complexity of the demand for health care services. Residents currently highlight that within the surrounding villages of Site A, there are a plethora of difficulties with some of the basic utilities including low pressure of the water, inadequate sewage systems and electricity including power cuts. Other items which currently affect local residents include access to Health Care, and for many obtaining an appointment with a General Practitioner is neither easy nor timely. Tensions will grow between local residents and those at Site A when, and if, it is seen that an Asylum Seeker is receiving health care when they can not obtain it, despite being a resident and tax payer.

The creation of Site A to accommodate 1256 single men and associated staff who will be employed to work there has already caused significant fears that the utilities as they are at the present time, will become much worse, when Site A is fully operational.

Community tension in other areas, including [redacted] continue to cause serious concern many months' following the opening of the site, and does not appear to be easing nor has the Government attempted to reconciliate the issues. The protests that have taken place at Site A and wider afield have already been shown to create division within society, and whilst currently they appear to have been non-violent, complacency

[54] Home Affairs Committee (2025) The Home Office's Management of Asylum Accommodation. Fourth Report of Session 2024-2026. HC 580. London. House of Commons

that peaceful protest will continue should be avoided. Most certainly, there are concerns that for any of the single men venturing out from Site A once operational, that for any Asylum Seeker, their safety is at risk from vigilantes who object to the development of Site A and, there is every possibility that a person of a different ethnic origin, even living and working legitimately and legally, may become a target of violence, discrimination and hateful intent.

The men who are likely to be housed at Site A MOD Bicester are highly vulnerable as there is an enormous rejection by the majority of the public regarding the development of Site A. Any of these men who leave the site are highly likely to encounter people, whether local residents or being attracted to object to Site A, being abusive and subjecting the men to hostility, discrimination, racism and potential violence.

It is recognised that on Site A MOD Bicester there will be some facilities for the Asylum Seekers, although these are likely to be basic and relatively few. Given that this may be the case, the noise level emanating from such a very large number of men, whether it is just talking, shouting, singing is likely to be constant and possibly 24 hours a day. Whilst there will be a presence of employees on site to monitor activity, they will be unable to control or prevent the noise. Should there be a noise cut off point, such as during the night time, the number of staff on the site will be unable to ensure that the noise ceases. This in turn will not only affect the mental well being of the Asylum Seekers, but importantly, those who live in the neighbouring villages, such as the residents of Piddington.

Potential Criminal Activity

Asylum Seekers are given £9.95 per person each week. However from this amount, they must purchase their own clothing and toiletries any other items considered to be 'luxuries' such as a mobile phone. The use of a mobile phone and / or a contract for a mobile phone is potentially out of reach for the majority of asylum seekers. Further to this, should an asylum seeker wish to eat any foods which are either not offered or perhaps their diet isn't suitably and satisfactorily catered for, they must use the £9.95 to buy food, consequently there is a high risk of individuals either being recruited into

offending or, perhaps, stealing to obtain some of the items which are considered to be 'essential'. As the asylum seeker has few possessions, including clothes, if they have or catch scabies or other diseases, they must continue to wear the clothes that will prevent either reduction or eradication of the disease.

It is recognised that there is a substantial risk of violence within any facility, which houses a number of different ethnic population groups, and this is further reinforced when those men in a rural site have nothing to do for 24 hours a day, with no specific end date being provided.

Example: a risk of violence in facilities which is caused, for example, by accommodating different ethnic groups together. The possible reactions to this threat are:

- avoiding — making every effort to separate these two groups, even if this leads to lower capacity, the spending of many more resources, etc.;
- controlling — safeguards, video surveillance, etc.;
- mitigating — mediation between conflicted groups in case of violence;
- accepting — assumption that due to very limited resources there is no possibility to prevent violence, calling police and legal actions if the law is broken.

55

The Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act (2009) places an obligation onto the Home Office to ensure that safeguarding is in place for Asylum Seekers.[56], [57] It has been documented that with a high number of Asylum Seekers to be housed on one site, with minimal opportunities for them to do, leads to violence, gangs being created and intimidation of many individuals.[58] This frequently leads to exploitation of men housed, and whilst there are safeguards in place, these frequently fail to ensure every man being housed is safe and secure, thereby allowing the groups and gangs to generate a

[55] European Asylum Support Office (2018) EASO Guidance on Contingency Planning in the Context of Reception. EASO Practical Guides Series. P18 https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/guidance-contingency-planning-context-reception [Accessed, August 4 2026]
[56] Home Office (2009) Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009, c11, Section 22. London. HMSO
[57] Home Office (1999) Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, c33, Section 147. London. HMSO
[58] Dorling K, Harris M (2023) Ghettoised and Traumatised: The Experiences of Men Held in Quasi-Detention in Wethersfield. London. Helen Bamber Foundation

hierarchy of order, with those 'lower down' being exploited for illegal activities including drug distribution.[59]

Evidence given to the Government by the British Red Cross has shown that Asylum accommodation is woefully poor, because there is a lack of schedule of inspections, regulation or enforcement, thereby failing to ensure safeguarding measures are in place and adhered to.[60] They raise concerns that when issues are raised, these are frequently ignored.

Religious Beliefs

It is unknown the background of the 1256 men who will housed at Site A, and it is likely that there will be multiple variations of similar faiths and indeed different faiths being practiced by the men. Whilst it may be seen as reassuring for faith to be practiced, there is a growing tension within the United Kingdom to reject acceptance for alternative faiths to that which is perceived to be "British" ie Christian. There is also evidence available from other sites that even where there are similar faiths, the provision of a multifaith room is insufficient, inadequate and may even contribute to a deterioration of the mental health, if the individual is unable to practice his preferred religion in a constructive and meaningful way. In a report published in 2016, Campsfield Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) was criticised for having to use a sports hall for prayers on a Friday, because the area for prayers for Muslims could only cater for 75 people and sometimes there were twice that number wishing to pray.[61] Whilst IRC may not be similar, because the men being housed there are detained and may not leave, the number of men on that site do not equate to even 25% of those who will be on Site A.

[59] Dorling K, Harris M (2023) Ghettoised and Traumatised: The Experiences of Men Held in Quasi-Detention in Wethersfield. London. Helen Bamber Foundation
[60] Home Office (2025) Written Evidence Submitted by the British Red Cross (AAC0060). London. Home Office
[61] Shaw S (2016) Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons. A report to the Home Office. Cm 9186. London. Home Office

Immigration Status and Criminal Offences

To obtain data relating to criminal offences committed by Asylum Seekers is problematic, because it has not been recorded by official methods, such as by the Home Office or Ministry of Justice, or the Office for National Statistics, although in more recent times, the Government has stated that these statistics will be recorded.[62] The Government claim that since coming to power, almost 60,000 people have been removed from this country, although it is not possible to identify how many of those committed criminal offences.

The only method to try to obtain statistics relating to immigration and criminal activity is through a Freedom of Information Act to the Government. The simplest / easiest method currently available to a member of the public is through analysis of the prison statistics. However, caution is required, because many offences are unreported, and not all offences result in a prison sentence.

There is a common misconception that all asylum seekers are non-white, and the following table demonstrates the variability of ethnic background of those seeking asylum in the United Kingdom.

Nationality	People claiming asylum
Pakistan	9,438
Eritrea	8,212
Iran	7,331
Afghanistan	6,197
Bangladesh	5,944
Sudan	5,898
India	5,378
Somalia	4,676
Nigeria	3,124
Sri Lanka	2,281
Iraq	2,236
Brazil	2,002
Vietnam	1,987
Ethiopia	1,946

[62] Home Office (2026) Asylum Seekers: Recorded Crime. Volume 783: Debated on Monday 23 March 2026. https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2026-03-23/debates/CA6AFBB9-B9B8-4F1F-9D5B-7EF2637AEBA6/AsylumSeekersRecordedCrime [Accessed, August 10 2026]

Turkey	1,725
Syria	1,697
Albania	1,657
Yemen	1,540
Stateless	1,506
China	1,372
Other	17,378
Total	**93,525**

[63]

Nationality	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	1 - 21 April 2024
Afghanistan	330	272	134	255	223	568	170
Albania	58	1	5	1	6	9	4
Iran	283	343	338	277	74	302	56
Iraq	194	218	96	160	35	178	52
Syria	128	262	166	149	95	347	103
Eritrea	133	48	90	93	74	292	69
Turkey	259	210	92	111	80	150	21
Sudan	101	45	35	47	53	243	67
Vietnam	116	49	19	117	210	749	190
Egypt	34	14	18	17	10	41	5
India	18	38	9	21	6	43	13
Georgia	66	45	2	4	7	25	20
Ethiopia	20	6	4	6	4	18	5
Kuwait	11	11	13	21	5	41	1
Sri Lanka	22	19	1	5	5	30	8
Libya	6	5	14	5	3	16	7
Somalia	33	16	2	11	9	20	1
South Sudan	14	9	3	13	7	24	5
Pakistan	5	3	2	5	3	5	1
Stateless	9	27	25	2	0	16	0
All other nationalities	29	20	9	15	11	63	32
Not currently recorded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**1,869**	**1,661**	**1,077**	**1,335**	**920**	**3,180**	**830**

Continuing with the myths surrounding Asylum Seekers and rumours relating those who will be housed at Site A MOD Bicester will be from the African continent arriving by

[63] Home Office (2026) Immigration System Statistics data tables - year ending March 2026. https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-system-statistics-data-tables#asylum [Accessed August 10 2026]

small boat crossing the English Channel[64], despite there being no information available and indeed, 10% of those arriving in the United Kingdom and seek asylum arrive using a valid airline route.

A different report for the year ending March 2026, states that there were 44,000 detected arrivals via illegal routes with 90% of these via 'small boats', therefore 5,000 were via a different method. More than 60% of those arriving on the small boats are just 5 different nationalities: Eritrean, Afghan, Sudanese, Iranian and Somali.[65]

Method of entry	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 Jan - Mar
Small boat arrivals	299	1,843	8,466	28,526	45,774	29,437	36,816	41,472	4,441
Inadequately documented air arrivals	4,769	5,237	2,328	2,561	5,130	3,854	3,349	3,027	370

Nationality	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 Jan - Mar
Eritrea	0	0	511	2,875	2,020	2,666	3,480	7,602	743
Sudan	0	0	969	1,064	1,762	1,658	2,748	4,432	735
Afghanistan	3	69	494	1,437	9,088	5,511	6,065	4,755	598
Iran	238	1,213	2,373	8,319	5,841	3,582	4,214	4,489	395
Somalia	0	0	14	318	86	248	697	3,783	378
Iraq	33	471	1,648	6,117	4,574	2,536	2,142	1,636	186
Vietnam	4	3	118	1,403	505	1,306	3,657	1,433	169
Ethiopia	0	5	108	544	530	249	508	1,695	165
Stateless	0	2	389	498	198	51	138	1,238	135
Syria	1	14	776	2,451	3,006	2,275	4,693	1,528	102
South Sudan	0	0	34	62	129	256	328	323	78
India	0	0	64	67	748	1,214	293	450	71
Yemen	0	0	252	135	160	91	1,300	1,337	63
Egypt	0	1	53	366	1,233	810	378	467	48
Turkey	0	2	10	69	1,127	3,058	1,944	1,148	42
Georgia	0	0	3	0	313	572	316	359	31

[64] Home Office (2024) Statistics Relating to Illegal Migration https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistics-relating-to-the-illegal-migration-bill [Accessed August 10 2026]

[65] Home Office (2026) Accredited Official Statistics. Summary of Latest Statistics, Updated 16 July 2026. https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2026/summary-of-latest-statistics [Accessed August 10 2026]

Sri Lanka	0	0	18	80	182	296	334	271	31
Kuwait	0	2	79	537	374	309	462	621	29
Sierra Leone	0	0	2	0	11	10	58	204	28
Palestine	0	0	62	95	64	43	72	550	27
All other nationalities	20	61	489	1,507	13,623	1,660	2,250	1,959	168
Not currently recorded	0	0	0	582	200	1,036	739	1,192	219
Total	**299**	**1,843**	**8,466**	**28,526**	**45,774**	**29,437**	**36,816**	**41,472**	**4,441**

[66]

Having 1256 men on one site may increase tension within those men, especially as they have nothing to do, and given that within different cultures there are groups loyal to one faction or another, this is a highly volatile site, and at any time, those tensions may erupt into violence on site.

The following are the number of crimes by ethnic and religion, of those who were sentenced to a term of imprisonment:

No religion	41%
Christian	49%
Buddhist	0.006%
Hindu	0.02%
Jewish	0.004
Muslim	0.05%
Sikh	0.006%
Other	0.006%

[67]

Approximately 13% of those in prison in England and Wales appear to be non-citizens of the United Kingdom. The non-citizens who appear to be over represented in the Prison population are usually for drug offences, whereas for robbery or violence against a person it is much lower. Rates of convictions for some countries appear to be more likely than British citizens to be convicted and sentenced to prison, Lithuanians, whereas other nationalities, including Chinese and Indian are far less likely. Rates of convictions resulting in prison sentences appears to be higher for Albanians, Iranians

[66] Home Office (2026) Immigration System Statistics Data Tables https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-system-statistics-data-tables#illegal-entry-routes [Accessed August 10 2026]

[67] Office for National Statistics (2026) Crime in England and Wales: Annual Supplementary Tables https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/crimeinenglandandwalesannualsupplementarytables [Accessed August 10 2026]

and Afghans, resulting in the most common non-United Kingdom nationalities within the prison population.[68]

An historical study found that asylum seekers are more likely to engage in economic crime[69], and despite the nationalities may be significantly different to the prosposals for Site A, the variables are similar, such as the isolation, lack of resources, and limited funds. The report identified that violent crime in the local neighbourhood was unlikely to rise, whereas for property crime there was a significant correlation between the asylum seeker increase and property crime rates.

A more recent study conducted in Greece following the substantial number of refugees arriving weakly supports the earlier study in that total crime rises, with property crime rising only slightly, with the highest rate of crime being robbery, yet minimal increase in sexual offences, despite popular belief that asylum seekers will target women and children for sexual gratification.[70]

Offending rates within the United Kingdom suggest that a person who is subjected to any sexual offence, will be most likely targeted by a white male. There have been claims by certain politicians that an Afghan male was 22 times more likely to be convicted for sexual offences than a British national, although there is no evidence to support his claims. [71]

Other researchers have found that where there are many refugees allocated to a particular area, there is likely to be statistically significant increases in the crime rates, and similar to other research, the most common crime is property crime although they highlighted violent crime too. However, research in Germany which provided Asylum

[68] The Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford (2025) How Do Conviction Rates and Prison Populations Differ Between British and Foreign Nationals? Oxford. Oxford University
[69] Bell B, Fasani F, Machin S (2013) Crime and Immigration: Evidence from Large Immigrant Waves. Review. of.Economics.and.Statistics.93, 4, 1279-1290
[70] Megalokonomou R, Vasilakis C (2023) The Effects of Exposure to Refugees on Crime: Evidence from the Greek Islands European.Economic.Review.160, 1-19
[71] Santos AP (2025) UK: Is There An Increasing Number of Sexual Assaults Committed by Male Migrants? https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/66236/uk-is-there-an-increasing-number-of-sexual-assaults-committed-by-male-migrants [Accessed August 10 2026]

Seekers with considerable financial benefits, they discovered that the risk of offending fell dramatically compared with those countries which provides minimal financial help and / or basic resources, although they recognise that there was an increase in overall crime.[72]

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
All ethnicities	10,053	9,471	9,338	8,696	8,702	9,003	9,521	9,369	9,976	10,024	10,412
Asian or Asian British	2,016	1,708	1,630	1,290	1,223	1,145	1,268	1,248	1,388	1,438	1,530
Black or Black British	2,596	2,282	2,315	2,130	2,116	1,986	2,072	2,059	2,143	2,222	2,308
Mixed	332	370	366	388	369	403	464	486	504	512	574
Other ethnic group	586	589	615	631	642	653	673	696	902	1,070	1,217
White	4,391	4,351	4,241	4,150	4,240	4,692	4,909	4,716	4,859	4,557	4,498
Not recorded	87	135	131	67	76	79	99	125	146	166	239
Not stated	45	36	40	40	36	45	36	39	34	59	46

[72] Lange M, Sommerfield K (2024) Do Refugees Impact Crime? Causal Evidence from Large Scale Refugee Immigration to Germany Labout.Economics.86, 1-12

All custody types	10,512	9,891	9,756	9,066	9,089	9,308	9,815	9,682	10,321	10,435	10,772
Untried	1,784	1,285	1,235	1,190	1,146	1,829	1,991	2,023	2,360	2,590	2,739
Convicted unsentenced	447	424	398	366	453	531	739	720	995	988	1,042
Fine defaulters	11	12	17	11	14	3	10	5	1	1	2
Less than or equal to 6 months	508	495	443	363	371	189	265	244	253	165	204
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	276	251	207	150	173	119	157	162	171	140	218
12 months to less than 2 years	596	583	532	477	462	412	436	452	505	454	444
2 years to less than 4 years	1,015	1,062	1,111	1,163	1,181	1,018	1,065	1,032	1,114	1,134	1,107
4 years to less than 5 years	468	462	466	464	497	436	364	370	356	389	352
5 years to less than 7 years	748	767	776	780	740	679	603	582	549	566	535
7 years to less than 10 years	737	748	781	808	806	739	684	664	659	632	626
10 years to less than 14 years	489	530	576	597	576	546	493	481	453	474	484
14 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	373	400	417	438	459	451	427	422	421	432	433
Extended determinate sentences (EDS)	150	233	305	366	402	430	475	518	575	618	682
Imprisonment for public protection (IPP)	229	174	142	112	82	62	54	47	45	34	27
Life sentences	797	786	784	784	779	798	808	853	890	927	950
Non criminal prisoners	1,669	1,455	1,331	807	708	718	897	725	513	371	318
Recalls	147	153	164	138	179	293	283	310	402	453	544
Sentence length not recorded	68	71	71	52	61	55	64	72	59	67	65

[73]

[73] Ministry of Justice (2026) Offender Management Statistics Quarterly https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly [Accessed, August 10 2026]

Conclusion

In conclusion, I confirm that I oppose this planning application for many reasons, and in this letter to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government I have listed just a few of my reasons.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted]