From: [redacted]
To: Crown Casework
Cc: calum.miller.mp@parliament.uk
Subject: PCU/RARE/C3105/3378843
Date: 15 September 2026 17:54:17
Attachments: image002.png
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[redacted]. Learn why this is important

Dear Secretary of State,

[redacted] for Bicester and the surrounding area. [redacted] employers, public bodies and community organisations to support the town's growth, and we work closely with Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council on [redacted] to set out the views of the local business community on this application, so that they can be given weight in your decision regarding whether or not to permit the development of Bicester Site A into asylum accommodation.

Bicester is not simply a growing town. It is a nationally significant economic hub, home to major UK businesses and to one of the country's leading visitor destinations and employers, bringing investment, jobs and international spending into the UK economy. Without the infrastructure and investment needed to support its continued growth, that contribution could be constrained, with negative consequences for jobs, business confidence, visitor spending and the wider economy.

Between 4 and 11 September 2026 [redacted] local businesses, organisations and residents for their views regarding the proposals. Responses were received from a range of businesses which included but are not limited to sole traders to employers with more than 250 staff, across retail, construction and property, manufacturing, logistics, professional services, health and social care, education and the voluntary sector. The full results are available [redacted]

Strength of feeling

Every respondent opposes the proposal, and 88% strongly oppose it. Nobody is neutral, and nobody is in favour. Every respondent also feels that businesses have not been properly informed or consulted, two thirds of them not at all. The representation period is very short for a scheme of this scale and duration, and we ask you to take that into account when weighing the volume of local representations against the time available to make them.

Key concerns

The survey found near-unanimous concern about the wider impact on Bicester:

- 96% expect a negative effect on how Bicester is perceived as a place to do business and attract investment
- 96% expect a negative effect on the safety and security of staff, customers and

premises

- 92% expect a negative effect on property values and rental demand
- 88% expect a negative effect on local infrastructure and public services
- 83% expect a negative effect on their own business or organisation over the next two years
- 71% expect a negative effect on local roads and transport

The site-specific objections raised most often in written responses are these. The site has no water, power, sewerage or residential accommodation of its own, so everything would need to be built from scratch, in an area where utility capacity is already constraining planned housing. There is no safe pedestrian access, and the roads to the site have no footpaths. Up to 1,256 people would be placed on a single isolated site near a small town for up to ten years, which is a different proposition from dispersed accommodation. And businesses question whether the economic case, value for money and impact on the local economy have been assessed at all. The safety and security concern is reported here as a matter of business confidence and premises security, which is how respondents raised it.

The view of the business community is that this is the wrong plan on the wrong site. As one respondent put it, that is not opposition to asylum seekers: "My concern is specifically about the suitability and scale of this particular site."

Our request

We ask that the application be refused. If you are minded to approve it, no decision should be taken until full evidence on infrastructure, transport, ground conditions, cost and economic impact has been provided and independently assessed, and until mitigation for local businesses has been secured by condition and funded before occupation.

[redacted] would welcome the opportunity to engage with your officials and the Home Office on behalf of local businesses.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]