From: Cllr Sean Gaul
To: Crown Casework
Cc: MILLER, Calum (MP); wpwsobjection@gmail.com
Subject: Objection to planning application PCU/RARE/C3105/3378843, Site A, MOD Bicester
Date: 17 September 2026 09:32:39

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Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing as an Oxfordshire resident and elected councillor for Oxfordshire County Council to object to planning application PCU/RARE/C3105/3378843, the proposed 1,256-person asylum accommodation centre at Site A, MOD Bicester, Bicester Garrison, Launton Road, Oxfordshire, OX25 1AE.

I ask that planning permission be refused.

The National Audit Office has previously raised serious concerns about the Home Office's large-sites asylum accommodation programme.

Its March 2024 findings concluded that the programme was expected to cost more overall than the hotels it was intended to replace, rather than delivering the savings originally projected.

The published representation period runs from 7 to 17 September 2026, just 11 days, roughly half the 21 day minimum that applies to ordinary planning applications under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and that is prescribed at every stage of the standard Crown Development route. Nearly two months passed between the application being submitted on 6 July 2026 and it being published for comment on 2 September 2026, and its supporting documents run to well over 1,000 pages across multiple technical disciplines. The campaign does not believe 11 days gives residents, councils or technical specialists a fair opportunity to examine an application of this scale and complexity.

The application does not demonstrate a confirmed, reliable permanent electricity or wastewater solution.

The Utilities and Infrastructure Assessment says the condition and capacity of the existing electricity network cannot presently be relied upon, while questions also remain over sewage capacity and the proposed wastewater arrangements.

The Transport Assessment repeatedly refers to the **B1104**, rather than the **B4011** which actually borders the site.

The objection evidence also identifies a history of injury collisions on the nearby B4011 and the lack of a continuous footway or lighting along much of the route.

The documents acknowledge that hospital care would not be provided on site. Questions have therefore been raised about the additional demand that could fall on existing local health and emergency services.

Site A does not form part of the development for which Cherwell's existing Infrastructure Delivery Plan was prepared, raising questions about how the additional infrastructure requirements would be accommodated.

Taken together, these issues mean I do not believe the applicant has demonstrated that Site A is a suitable location for a development of this scale.

I therefore respectfully request that planning permission be refused.

If the Secretary of State is nevertheless minded to approve the application, I ask that no decision is made until outstanding work concerning drainage, flooding, wastewater, contamination, ecology, highways, pedestrian safety, power supply, lighting, noise, fire safety and decommissioning has been completed and made available for proper scrutiny.

Yours faithfully,

Cllr Sean Gaul, Bicester East, Oxfordshire County Council
[redacted]

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