

Sent via email

Wednesday 1 July 2026

Our ref: 260701

Cllr Carl Les OBE
Leader
North Yorkshire Council

Dear Carl,

RAF Linton-on-Ouse

Thank you for your letter of 26 June 2026. We share your concern about the Home Office proposal for asylum accommodation on RAF Linton-on-Ouse.

The Government are right to take the steps they have done to restore control and order to our borders and address the significant backlog of asylum applications, illegal border crossings and widespread use of hotels. Asylum seekers are fleeing persecution and violence in their home country, they should be treated with dignity and respect while their application is considered.

We believe that RAF Linton-on-Ouse is the wrong place to meet those obligations and to accommodate a large number of asylum seekers.

We believe that the safety of the public and wider community cohesion should be at the heart of any decision that the Home Office and Ministry of Defence makes. We are concerned that the proposals would have an adverse impact on policing, emergency services and wider community safety. As such, Jo has written to the Asylum Minister and the Chief Constable to seek urgent assurances on all of public safety issues and the resourcing implications for council tax payers.

As you are aware, since being elected as Mayor I have argued that the future of the site should be a housing led redevelopment, delivering the homes, jobs and investment that York and North Yorkshire desperately needs in the face of the housing crisis.

RAF Linton-on-Ouse presents one of our region's largest opportunities to meet that local need and support regional economic growth. That has been the case since the site closed. It is therefore frustrating that, years after the sites closure and the last time government considered this site for this purpose, that economic potential remains unrealised.

In making representations to the Home Office, Ministry of Defence, and North Yorkshire Council as the responsible local authority, I will be clear that RAF Linton-on-Ouse should be used for homes, not to house asylum seekers. The current proposal jeopardises future development of the site and further delays the homes, jobs and investment that local people have been waiting years to see, and which they deserve.

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We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further with As we will be together on Thursday for the Combined Authority Cabinet meeting, we would suggest that it is appropriate to meet following the close of the meeting.

Yours sincerely,



David Skaith
Mayor of York
and North Yorkshire



Jo Coles
Deputy Mayor of York
and North Yorkshire for Policing, Fire and
Crime

Copied:
Cllr Claire Douglas, Leader of City of York Council