

Louisa Le-Roux
Home Office
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25 September 2026

Dear Louisa

Re: Proposed Use of MOD Linton-on-Ouse for Asylum Accommodation Centre

Thank you for meeting with me again on 16 September 2026 to discuss the proposed use of MOD Linton-on-Ouse for asylum accommodation. I appreciated the opportunity to have an open and constructive discussion regarding the site and the range of issues associated with its potential use. Across York and North Yorkshire all agencies are awaiting the outcome of the Home Office's feasibility study, which from our discussion I understand is expected by the end of October 2026. This is clearly an important piece of work that will inform future discussions and planning.

As we discussed, it is essential that any future decisions fully recognise the impact this would have on the local community. Linton-on-Ouse is a small rural village where, other than the village school, there is very limited other infrastructure, public transport, healthcare provision and local services. The village currently requires negligible policing. Since the announcement in the summer, North Yorkshire Police are already providing an additional police presence to support the development of the site and to manage associated demands. Longer term, this would inevitably have implications for the deployment of resources across the wider force area and risks diverting officers and staff from other communities and policing priorities. In this context, it will be vital that North Yorkshire Police receive the full cost recovery for all additional policing requirements arising from the operation of the site. This is not currently clear in the guidance on the Home Office website that has been provided previously. Would it be possible to receive further clarification from the Asylum Police Grant Team regarding the funding arrangements and the mechanism through which the costs being incurred by North Yorkshire Police will be met.

I would also like to thank you for the offer to visit the asylum accommodation site in Essex to see first-hand a similar site and look forward to making arrangements in due course. In the meantime I would be grateful if you could provide the data we discussed in relation to the Essex site, including:

- The number and frequency of individuals walking off the site;
- The demographics of occupants, including age profiles and nationalities;
- Any other relevant operational data that may assist our understanding of the potential impacts and requirements associated with a comparable facility;
- Site facilities
- confirm in writing that asylum interviews would be conducted on site, while decision-making processes and final asylum determinations would be undertaken off site.

Sent via email

Finally, as I said on the call, the Mayor and I remain committed to the use of this site as a strategic site for housing in our region. From the call my understanding is that the Linton-on-Ouse site if approved would be scheduled to return to the Ministry of Defence for wider development purposes by July 2029 which would enable housing development to move forward from that time. Can you confirm this timescale? We recognised that this timetable would also need to include a period for decommissioning the site and associated infrastructure, and I would welcome written confirmation that this remains the position.

Once again for your time. I look forward to receiving the feasibility study outcome and the additional information requested, and to continuing our discussions in the coming weeks. The Mayor David Skaith, Mayor for York and North Yorkshire and I have written separately to the Home Secretary asking that the Home Office reconsider the suitability of this site on some wider points too.

Yours sincerely,



Jo Coles
Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime