



Jo Coles

York and North Yorkshire Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime

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21 August 2026

Dear Ms Coles,

Thank you for your letter of 23 July about proposed accommodation at MoD Linton-on-Ouse.

I thank you for your recent engagement with my officials regarding the site at Linton-on-Ouse. I recognise the importance of ensuring that your views and concerns are understood as this work progresses.

As noted in our previous correspondence of 6 July, the site would be used for a minimum of three years. Making use of existing basic accommodation on MoD sites such as this site is just the first step in the Government's work to exit hotels and source more appropriate accommodation to meet our statutory obligations. However, we are aware that MoD Linton forms part of the commitments within the MoD's Defence Housing Strategy, and we do not intend for our temporary use of the site to hinder the progression of its final use as a site for the development of new housing.

No final decision has been made in respect of the use of MoD Linton-on-Ouse for asylum accommodation. As my officials have confirmed, suitability assessments are ongoing and will consider a range of factors including safety, security, operational deliverability, planning requirements and the impacts on local services and communities. This site is subject to detailed feasibility assessments, which could take several months to complete. During this period, some activity on site may be visible. These assessments are routine exploratory work to understand the site's potential and do not predetermine its future use. Any proposals would be subject to the necessary planning permissions and approvals, and all factors, including other community assets, schools and other community facilities, are taken into account as part of the decision making.

I note your ongoing concerns around the site's rural setting and associated policing pressures. The Home Office successfully operates large sites in rural settings in Wethersfield and Crowborough. The Home Office recognises that large asylum accommodation sites can generate additional demands for local partners and has established a dedicated funding mechanism through which Police and Crime Commissioners may seek support for evidenced additional policing costs arising from large asylum accommodation sites. The following guidance sets out the principles and processes for considering requests for funding and reflects the Home Office's commitment to working with forces to manage any impacts on local policing:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/large-sites-for-asylum-accommodation-support-for-police-forces/large-sites-for-asylum-accommodation-support-for-police-forces>.

My officials remain available to continue these conversations with you, North Yorkshire Police, local authorities and other relevant local stakeholders as work progresses.

Thank you again for writing and for your continued engagement.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AT', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rt Hon Anna Turley MP
Minister for Border Security & Asylum