Home Office

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Mayor David Skaith
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19 October 2026

Dear Mr Skaith and Ms Coles,

Thank you for your letter of 21 September to the Home Secretary regarding the potential use of Ministry of Defence (MoD) Linton-on-Ouse to accommodate asylum seekers. I am replying as the Minister for Border Security & Asylum.

I note the concerns you have raised regarding the potential use of the site, including its impact on future redevelopment opportunities, local infrastructure and public services, and the wider effect on the local community. I also appreciate the engagement that you and local representatives have undertaken with residents.

The UK Government is considering using this former military site to accommodate people seeking asylum. If taken forward, it would provide basic, safe accommodation and would be designed to be largely self-sufficient to minimise any impact on the local community.

No decisions have been made regarding the future use of the site. The site is currently subject to detailed feasibility assessments, which are likely to take several months to complete. This work is exploratory in nature and does not predetermine any future outcome.

Should a proposal be taken forward, it would be subject to the necessary planning processes, approvals and statutory requirements. Home Office officials will continue to engage with you, your offices and other relevant local partners as assessment work progresses.

As part of this work, the Home Office is considering a wide range of factors, including the site's characteristics, local infrastructure, utilities, community facilities, schools, transport links, safety and security requirements and operational deliverability. This includes consideration of the potential scale of any accommodation in relation to the local population, the possible impact on local services and community capacity, and site-specific matters such as sewage, electricity and water provision.

These issues are being assessed as part of the ongoing work to determine whether the site could be suitable for use as asylum accommodation.

I also note the points you have raised regarding the site's potential future redevelopment for housing and wider economic growth. These considerations form part of the broader context in which the site's suitability is being assessed.

I further recognise the concerns you have raised regarding the potential impact on policing, fire and rescue services and other local public services. The Home Office works closely with local authorities, police, health partners and other agencies when considering and operating asylum accommodation sites. The implications for local services and operational delivery form part of the wider assessment process currently being undertaken.

I understand that proposals of this nature can raise concerns about how safe people may feel within their local community. I recognise the importance of ensuring these concerns are carefully considered as part of the ongoing assessment process.

The safety and security of local residents, staff and those accommodated on the site would be of the utmost importance. There would be a specialist and experienced provider of security services permanently on site 24/7, as well as security systems including CCTV monitoring and recording, if the site is taken forward.

The Home Office regularly works in collaboration with local authorities and other partners including police to ensure that accommodation sites are successfully managed and the impact upon the local community is minimised. This includes a comprehensive and ongoing approach to identifying and managing any public protection or safeguarding risks associated with individuals.

Mandatory security checks are conducted on all people seeking asylum through linking their biometric data to immigration, security and criminality databases. This includes criminality checks for, amongst other things, convictions, pending prosecutions, wanted or missing reports, as well as fingerprints and photographs. These checks are critical to the delivery of a safe and secure immigration system.

Additionally, as part of induction processes, clear expectations would be set about behaviours. Induction processes would be continuously updated by the service provider managing the site to reflect any feedback received from the local community or other stakeholders.

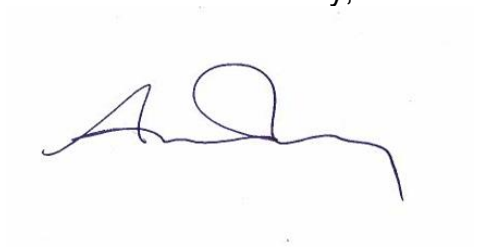
Should the site be taken forward, the intention would be to provide a range of on-site services and facilities in order to support those accommodated there and to minimise impacts on the surrounding community. Detailed operational arrangements would be developed as part of any future proposal.

If the site is taken forward, the Home Office would engage regularly with representatives from the relevant local authorities, NHS, police forces and local partners via multi agency forums to address the concerns of those most impacted by the site and to identify ways to keep them informed.

The latest public information is available on the MoD Linton-On-Ouse factsheet, which is updated regularly on GOV.UK at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum accommodation-at-military-sites-factsheets/mod-linton-on-ouse-north-yorkshire-factsheet .

Thank you once again for taking the time to write to the Home Secretary.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon Anna Turley MP
Minister for Border Security & Asylum