

GREG SMITH MP
MID BUCKINGHAMSHIRE CONSTITUENCY



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Friday 2nd July 2026

Dear Secretary of State,

MOD Bicester

I am writing to register my strong objection to the proposal to use MOD Bicester as a large-scale asylum accommodation centre. Whilst I recognise that this is not in my constituency, it is adjacent to it and the proposals directly affect many of my constituents - particularly in the nearby villages of Boarstall, Oakley, Long Crendon, Ludgershall, Marsh Gibbon, Twyford, Charndon, Poundon and more.

This proposal is simply not sustainable, and I am deeply concerned that it appears to have been brought forward without proper thought for the local area, the pressures on public services, or the serious risks that could arise from placing such a large number of people on an isolated rural site.

The site is poorly located for this purpose. It is isolated from the nearest large town and has poor public transport links. The surrounding communities are rural villages with limited facilities and infrastructure. They are not equipped to cope with the sudden arrival of up to 1,250 men, many of whom will seek to leave the site during the day with nowhere meaningful to go and nothing constructive to do.

I am particularly concerned of the safety risk this poses to my constituents, not least with well reported serious criminal behaviour, including sexual offences, by illegal migrants in other parts of the country.

Likewise nearby rural communities could feel overwhelmed by large groups of men walking through villages and local areas without any clear purpose or adequate facilities to support them. This risks causing significant anxiety among residents and, in the worst case, could give rise to serious social tension and public disorder. It is the responsibility of Government to avoid creating situations in which community cohesion is placed under such obvious strain.

There are also serious concerns about conditions and facilities on the site itself. I understand that on-site facilities are likely to be severely lacking. Placing up to 1,250 men together in one location, with little to occupy their time and limited access to proper services, creates an obvious risk of unrest within the site. It is difficult to see how such an arrangement could be safe or properly manageable.



This raises urgent questions about policing. Thames Valley Police are already under significant pressure, and I do not believe the local force could reasonably be expected to absorb the burden of policing a site of this scale, alongside the potential for protests, disorder, incidents within the site, and wider public order challenges in the surrounding area. I would therefore be grateful if you could set out clearly who will be responsible for policing the site, what additional funding and resources will be provided, and what contingency planning has been undertaken for large-scale public order situations.

Before any further steps are taken, I ask that the Home Office pauses this proposal and provides full answers to the following questions:

1. What assessment has been made of the suitability and sustainability of MOD Bicester as an asylum accommodation centre?
2. What transport assessment has been undertaken, particularly given the isolated nature of the site and poor public transport links?
3. What facilities will be provided on site, including healthcare, recreation, welfare support and structured activities? And who will provide those medical services?
4. How will the Home Office prevent pressure being placed on nearby rural villages and local services?
5. What assessment has been made of the risk of unrest, both within the site and in the surrounding communities?
6. Who will be responsible for policing the site?
7. What additional funding, officers and public order resources will be provided to Thames Valley Police?
8. What consultation will now take place with parish councils, local authorities, service providers, residents and elected representatives?

Fundamentally, I urge you to withdraw this proposal and work instead with local authorities, police and communities on a more sustainable and properly consulted approach.

I look forward to your urgent response.

Greg Smith MP
Mid Buckinghamshire