

Dan Gascoyne  
Chief Executive  
Braintree District Council  
Causeway House  
Bocking End  
Braintree  
CM7 9HB

**18th January 2024**

Dear Mr Gascoyne,

We are writing to inform you of the planned changes to the Home Office's proposal at the Former Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency (MDPGA) Wethersfield (referred to as 'the site') in Wethersfield, Essex. The Home Office is seeking temporary planning permission for three years (from 17th April 2024) under a Special Development Order (SDO). The proposed development is described in summary below:

*'Temporary permission for a material change of use of the land for the purpose of accommodating non detained single adult male asylum seekers between the age of 18 and 65 with communal services for a maximum period of up to 9 months for each service user<sup>1</sup>.*

*The installation of up to 4281 sq.m of modular buildings of up to 4.5 metres in height to provide accommodation and associated services for up to 1700 asylum seekers. Installation of fencing of up to 2.4 metres around the operational area of the site.*

*The operational development works required or provided in connection within the use of the site as accommodation for asylum seekers, including engineering works associated with the provision of foul water drainage, provision of temporary generators, provision of new substations, provision of fuel storage tanks, installation of additional lighting and CCTV within the operational area of this site.*

The Home Office secured planning permission to use the site as asylum accommodation under the permitted development right in Class Q which contains

---

<sup>1</sup> Unless it is possible to find suitable onward dispersed accommodation despite reasonable efforts to do so.

emergency Crown development planning provisions. Pursuant to Class Q, the Home Office is permitted to use the site for non-detained asylum accommodation for a 12-month period until 16th April 2024.

The Home Office intends to extend the temporary use of the site for a further three-year period and intends to seek planning permission by way of a Special Development Order (SDO), with up to six months decommissioning following. An SDO, a form of secondary legislation, grants planning permission for development specified in the order for a specific area of land.

The Home Office will continue to engage with statutory bodies throughout the development process.

Please find enclosed a revised site boundary plan.

Should you wish to provide comments regarding the proposal, please respond by **noon on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

You can provide comments by emailing  
[Wethersfield-CommunicationAndEngagement@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:Wethersfield-CommunicationAndEngagement@homeoffice.gov.uk)

For further details, visit  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65788ee9254aaa0010050b9a/Wethersfield\\_Information\\_Leaflet\\_A4\\_041223+v1.0.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65788ee9254aaa0010050b9a/Wethersfield_Information_Leaflet_A4_041223+v1.0.pdf)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Liam Burns', with a stylized, looped design.

Liam Burns

Portfolio Director

Accommodation Programme (Non detained)

Asylum Support, Resettlement and Accommodation

## Attachment 1: Site Plan