



Scampton Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Barbara Young
clerk@scampton-pc.gov.uk

Chairman: Cllr Chris Bulteel
cllrbulteel@scampton-pc.gov.uk

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THE RISKS AND IMPACT OF THE HOME OFFICE'S PLANNED USE OF RAF SCAMPTON

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Home Office (HO) have recently announced that they are seeking to regularise the planning position at RAF Scampton through the use of a Special Development Order (SDO). As the elected representative body covering the parish where the proposed site is to be located and as a Key Stakeholder, Scampton Parish Council (SPC) oppose the granting of an SDO. SPC believe that the HO's plan represents a totally unacceptable increased level of risk to the local community and a catastrophically detrimental effect to the regeneration of the site and long term sustainable economic growth of the region. This letter offers a more detailed explanation of the Risks, Impact and Concerns, for which no valid justifications or effective mitigations have been offered by the HO. SPC oppose the application for an SDO on the following grounds:

- **The loss of a £300million investment into the local region with far reaching economic implications, counter-productive to the Government's longer-term investment and Levelling Up agenda.**
- **The HO contravention of the Illegal Migration Bill.**
- **The lack of a Dynamic Risk Assessment and or Impact Statement undertaken by the HO that considers the effect and implications of these proposals.**
- **The total lack of meaningful engagement with the local community and local Parish Councils.**
- **The total disregard for the unique worldwide heritage status of RAF Scampton.**
- **The HO's lack of commitment to maintain the runway and airfield infrastructure.**
- **The existing infrastructure limitations at the site.**
- **The accommodation of 2000+ single male asylum seekers into a community of 690 people poses an unacceptable and unmanageable risk to local residents.**
- **The serious shortfalls in planned security provided by the HO's contracted security force and by the local police.**
- **The negative impact on Primary, Secondary and Tertiary healthcare in the local region.**
- **The negative impact on local schools.**
- **The negative impact on house prices and house and car insurance that will be felt by the local community.**
- **The limitations posed by RAF Scampton's rural location and its proximity to the A15.**
- **The negative impact on local services.**
- **The negative impact on the Lincolnshire Show Ground.**
- **The lack of adherence the principles of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, 2023.**
- **The lack of consideration and duty of care towards the asylum seekers.**

Background

2. In March 2023, West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) voted to acquire the RAF Scampton site and partner with an investor to deliver a regeneration and redevelopment project. The deal, which would secure over £300million of investment, would preserve, protect and enhance the site by providing aviation heritage, business, aerospace, space and aviation technology, and education opportunities. Immediately following the WLDC announcement, the HO announced that the site would be used for the accommodation of asylum seekers, for which there is currently no planning permission, and which would prevent the realisation of the major redevelopment scheme.

3. Since the HO announcement, there has been considerable opposition to the HO plan from all levels of local council, local service providers, migrant charities, the local and surrounding communities and indeed, from senior HO advisors. This opposition is largely based on the impact on the local community and the increased risks to the local community and the migrants:

(a) An email dated 8 February 2023 from a senior official in the Resettlement, Asylum Support and Integration Directorate does not go into detail about the objections but does make reference to the impact of the asylum proposal on redevelopment plans. It recommended that the Home Secretary "agree to stop work on proposals for RAF Scampton", and "immediately notify the local authorities that the Home Office are no longer developing proposals for the site."

(b) 171 organisations have written to the Prime Minister to urge him to 'listen to common sense' and scrap plans for asylum camps at Wethersfield, Catterick, Bexhill and Scampton, as well as on ferries and barges. The letter, which has been signed by national and local organisations across Britain including Asylum Matters, says the sites are 'deeply unsuitable' and the Government risks creating 'an entirely preventable humanitarian catastrophe' if it presses ahead with plans to house people seeking asylum on these sites. We believe people should be housed in communities, not camps. Placing thousands of people in confined sites, in remote locations, will cause significant harm to people fleeing war and persecution and damage community relations. The sites at Wethersfield, Scampton, Bexhill and Catterick are deeply unsuitable, as was the planned site at Linton-on-Ouse. The proposals for the use of ferries and barges are unreasonable and should not even be under consideration. If these sites are allowed to go ahead, people seeking safety will find themselves isolated in prison-like conditions without adequate advice, healthcare, or support. These facilities will segregate and re-traumatise people and are being planned with no consideration of either the needs of people seeking asylum or local communities. **The complete lack of prior consultation with the communities where these sites are planned is inexcusable and emblematic of the Home Office's wider approach."**

4. The HO plan would be catastrophic with far reaching economic and social implications and would be counter-productive to the Government's longer-term investment and Levelling Up agenda. SPC do not believe that RAF Scampton in any way represents a suitable or viable site for the temporary housing of asylum seekers, particularly the 2000+ single males that the Home Office is purportedly seeking to house at the site, temporarily, or otherwise.

5. Notwithstanding the loss of the £300million investment and the total disregard for the unique worldwide heritage status of RAF Scampton, SPC believe that the HO plans will have a major negative impact on the local area and represents a significant and serious risk to the local community.

The Illegal Migration Bill and Migrant Status

6. The HO Policy paper, Illegal Migration Bill: Overarching Factsheet¹, states that the HO recognise that, whilst the journeys that migrants are making are extremely dangerous, they are also unnecessary. Those making these crossings are coming from safe countries, such as France, where they could have claimed asylum. More recently, the HO has seen large numbers of people making these dangerous journeys, *“who are from well-established safe countries, where it is clear they are not at risk of persecution. It’s not fair that those coming to the UK with the intention of becoming economic migrants are able to exploit our asylum system.”* The Factsheet then states that *“The Illegal Migration Bill has changed the law to make it unambiguously clear that, if you enter the UK illegally, you should not be able to remain here. Instead, you will be detained and promptly removed either to your home country or to a safe country where any asylum claim will be considered”*. The Factsheet goes on to say that *“People who enter the UK illegally will not have their asylum claim determined in the UK”*. Therefore, those migrants that have entered the UK by illegal means are classed as illegal immigrants and should be, by law, detained.

HO, Council and Community Engagement

7. The HO has failed to properly take account of key material considerations in relation to the site. There has been no Dynamic Risk Assessment and no Impact Statement undertaken by the HO that considers the effect of these proposals have on the local economy, support infrastructure and associated communities.

8. Since April 2023, there have been several HO led, Multi-Agency Forums (MAFs); one of which is the Communications and Engagement Forum. At this meeting, Lincoln County Council, WLDC and SPC repeatedly requested that the HO publish any Dynamic Risk Assessment and/or Impact Statement and that they organise and chair a Community Engagement Meeting to allow members of the public to voice their concerns and allow the HO to articulate potential risks and mitigations associated with their proposals. A FOI request was submitted on 20 September 2023 to the HO requesting sight of the RAF Scampton Community Impact Statement, supposedly conducted by the HO. The HO has refused to forward a copy of the statement on the grounds of *“public interest in allowing Government to have a clear space, immune from exposure to public view, in which it can debate matters internally with candour and free from the pressures of public political debate”*. SPC believe that this Impact Statement is at the core of any debate concerning the use of the Scampton site as a migrant camp and it should be released. The FOI request and response are at Attachment A.

9. The first of these community meetings took place on 31 August 2023 at the Lincolnshire Showground, some 5 months after the initial requests and just 4 weeks prior to the planned arrival of the migrants. The HO held 4 meetings, each restricted to 100 people and restricted to the residents of the Scampton estate. No press were allowed at these meetings and although the HO made audio recordings, they refused to provide SPC, WLDC or LCC access to either the recordings or transcripts. A FOI request was submitted asking the HO to release these recordings which was denied on grounds of confidentiality. SPC would question this response since these meetings were public by design. The FOI request and response are at Attachment B. The only meeting for the surrounding communities has been a Teams meeting with pre-selected questions and no provision for discussion.

10. Following the submission of the original version of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary and the HO (10 Oct 23), SPC received the following 2 communications from the HO:

**Communications and Engagement Lead Large Sites Accommodation Programme
Home Office – 27 Oct 23**

¹ HO Policy paper, Illegal Migration Bill: Overarching Factsheet, dated 20 July 2023

"I am writing to update you on engagement between the Home Office and Scampton Parish Council. A decision has been made to arrange a monthly call between Home Office colleagues and Scampton Parish Council representatives to ensure you are kept informed of key information and news. This monthly meeting will replace the need for representation on the Scampton subgroup meetings from the Scampton Parish Council."

Deputy Director for Strategic Communications, Marketing and Insight Asylum Support, Resettlement and Accommodation Home Office – 27 Oct 23

"Thank you for the continued constructive engagement between yourself and the Home Office. It bears repeating that the Home Office remains focussed on delivering the Scampton site in a manner which imposes the smallest impact on the local community. That is why we have committed a tailored financial package to the local council and continue to work closely with you and key local stakeholders to mitigate any emerging impacts. We have always been clear that we would stand up the site in this initial period using emergency Class Q Permitted Development Rights, while we consider both longer term needs and the potential to secure ongoing planning permission. I am therefore writing to inform you that we intend to seek this further permission, via a Special Development Order (SDO), for a duration of three years. As we have been clear throughout, we remain absolutely committed to protecting and enhancing the heritage assets and working with key stakeholders to facilitate their vision for the site. This will ensure that the Home Secretary can continue to fulfil her statutory obligations to accommodate the large number of asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute in a manner which reduces the use of inappropriate hotels. Should you wish to speak about this further, we would be happy to meet at your earliest convenience. In the meantime, we will not be making any proactive public comment on the SDO."

11. Additionally, and again in response to the original version of this letter, SPC received a reply from the Briefing and Correspondence Team, Asylum Support, Resettlement and Accommodation (Attachment C). This HO reply does not address any of the Risks and Concerns highlighted in the original letter, and is in fact, a stock answer which has been written with little thought or consideration regarding the points raised by SPC. In this reply, the HO states the following:

"We have recently restructured our engagement forums for Scampton in order to provide a more tailored focus to specific issues and want to keep a close collaborative relationship with Scampton Parish Council as one of our key stakeholders. These meetings include a communications and community safety group, which is attended by communications professionals and law enforcement officials. We set up a series of monthly meetings to communicate directly with Scampton Parish Council to ensure Council representatives are kept informed of key information and news and to replace the need for representation on the Scampton Communications and Community safety subgroup meetings from the Scampton Parish Council."

12. It is totally unacceptable that SPC is excluded from the MAF and is contrary to the very reason for establishing the MAFs, especially the Communication and Community Engagement MAF. The statement *"to ensure Council representatives are kept informed of key information and news"* is not indicative of a constructive two-way dialog. Given that it is in their title, one would have hoped that the Deputy Director for Strategic Communications and the Communications and Engagement Lead for the HO would understand the requirement for robust and open communication with the community and other key stakeholders. SPC should be considered a Key Stakeholder and should be part of the SDO engagement.

13. The reason these groups are called MAFs is so that, in a Forum, the concerns of all key stakeholders, including SPC, can be heard by all, thus preventing a HO led one way flow of information with no meaningful discussion. The statement that the HO will “continue to work closely with you and key local stakeholders to mitigate any emerging impacts” is clearly not the case.

14. The Briefing and Correspondence Team, Asylum Support, Resettlement and Accommodation also state in their reply:

“The Home Office has to date led 9 engagement events for more than 1000 residents. These engagement events, several of which were attended by representatives from Scampton Parish Council, were held for the local community and those in neighbouring areas, with the latest sessions being held on 30 November 2023 at the Lincolnshire Showground.”

15. SPC councillors attended all 9 meetings and, at each meeting, there were no more than 10 - 40 attendees; largely down to the time of day that the meetings were held, poor to non-existent publicity of the events and the extremely short notification of each event. To that end, rather than the exaggerated figure of 1000 residents that the HO claims attended its meetings, it is more like 360²; many of which will be the same people attending multiple meetings.

16. In response to their exclusion from the MAFs, SPC organised a meeting for all local Parish Councils, key local stakeholders and agencies and the HO, which was scheduled to take place, 11 Jan 24, at the WLDC offices; the HO declined the invitation³.

17. As part of the discussion regarding HO, Council and Community Engagement communication, it is worth addressing the other claims made in the various HO communications to SPC.

18. The Deputy Director for Strategic Communications clearly states that the tailored financial package will mitigate any emerging impacts on the community. For the reasons clearly set out in the original SPC letter to the Prime Minister and the HO and discussed below, the impact and risks associated with the HO plan have not been fully assessed and the current financial package will provide no meaningful mitigation to the risks that the HO plan places on the local community.

19. The Deputy Director for Strategic Communications states that:

“The HO remains absolutely committed to working with key stakeholders⁴ to facilitate their vision for the site.”

The Briefing and Correspondence Team, Asylum Support, Resettlement and Accommodation state:

“As previously advised, in reference to regeneration plans; from the outset of this project, the Home Office has made it clear that it recognises its responsibilities to take appropriate steps to ensure that the heritage assets at RAF Scampton are protected and preserved, and security and operational management plans will be put in place to support this. The Home Office has also committed to making a heritage asset management plan an integral part of the operational use of the site.”

20. As a result of the HO proposals, the majority of the heritage assets that can be moved, have already been relocated to new locations around the country and are unlikely to be returned to Scampton. Those buildings that are of historical value are in an extremely poor state of repair and

² The Electoral Roll for the RAF Scampton Estate is circa 690. This figure takes no account of the population of the adjoining Parish Councils.

³ The HO continues to refuse to attend multi-agency meetings that include Parish Councils despite repeated invitations.

⁴ WLDC and Scampton Holdings.

will require extensive work to bring them up to a suitable standard or, at least, halt their decay. Scampton Holdings have stated that the proposed investment plans are incompatible with the HO proposals. Additionally, the HO have previously stated that they will not maintain the runway and airfield infrastructure. Given the statement that the HO will now be applying for an SDO⁵ for 3 years, unless the airfield infrastructure and runway are maintained, they will rapidly fall beyond economic financial repair. Moreover, if the HO keeps to their promise:

"The HO remains absolutely committed to working with key stakeholders to facilitate their vision for the site."

the financial implications of maintain the existing Infra Structure and buildings of historical value, would far exceed what would be considered as "Value for Money" for the proposed HO site.

21. The Deputy Director for Strategic Communications states that the Home Secretary has statutory obligations to accommodate the large number of asylum seekers. SPC believe that the HO is contravening the Illegal Migration Bill which states that the migrants must be detained and the Home Secretary needs to fulfil his statutory obligation to detain illegal immigrants; by not doing so, he places the local community at significant risk.

22. Early engagement at the start of the process would have allowed the HO to fully understand the implications, limitations and risks associated with their proposal and allow them to populate a meaningful Risk Assessment based on the communities' understanding of the local area. At all these meetings, the HO did not indicate any acceptance of Impact or provide any meaningful explanation of any Risk Mitigation. The feeling in the local community is that these meetings were of no value, serving no purpose other than completing a "tick box exercise".

RAF Scampton

23. There are no existing catering, medical or recreational facilities at RAF Scampton; a fact not reflected in a recent HO statement:

"Not only are these sites (RAF Scampton) more affordable for taxpayers, they are also more manageable for communities, due to healthcare and catering facilities on site, 24/7 security and the purpose built, safe and secure accommodation they provide."

24. To mitigate the risks and concerns articulated in this letter and address the significant shortfall in existing infrastructure, the HO would need to put in place a long-term strategy, which by necessity, would be at odds with the assured temporary nature of the proposals⁶. Accordingly, WLDC have, and are continuing to, challenge the Government's decision to rely upon temporary permitted development rights when the intended use of the site extends beyond the temporary period of permission. Despite the use of this temporary emergency planning, which commenced 16 April 2023, the date for the arrival of the initial cohort of 250 illegal immigrants has been pushed back on a number of occasions. The Home Office are now seeking to regularise the planning position at RAF Scampton through the use of a Special Development Order (SDO). However, as of the date of this correspondence, no Dynamic Risk Assessment or Impact Statement have been published and the necessary Intrusive Surveys on the 14 buildings have only recently been completed. It is also understood that personnel have only very recently undergone training in Warrington in order that they might complete a site Risk Assessment.

⁵ 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.

⁶ The HO have repeatedly stated that the use of RAF Scampton as an Illegal Immigrant Camp would be temporary; however, the stated intended length of its use has recently increased from 2 to 3 years.

25. The HO proposal to house 2000+ single males on the site would require significantly more accommodation and infrastructure than that afforded by the 14 buildings earmarked for use (only 4 of these were used as accommodation at the time of the closure of RAF Scampton). According to the HO, whilst the migrants at the site will not be detained, the site is being designed to be as self-sufficient as possible, providing essential services on site to reduce the need for those accommodated to leave the site. The HO has argued that the use of the RAF Scampton site represents Value For Money since they will be able to utilise the existing infrastructure.

26. It is widely accepted (indeed it is one of the driving factors for the RAF closing the site) that the existing infrastructure is not fit for purpose with some buildings beyond economic repair. Additionally, it is understood that there is a significant amount of ground contamination on the airfield because of fuel and oil spills and aircraft washing, along with a substantial amount of asbestos in some of the buildings and infrastructure. An FOI request was submitted to the HO on 10 August 2023 asking for sight of all the results of all of the surveys concerning the condition of the airfield, accommodation, catering facilities, medical facilities and associated utilities at RAF Scampton. The HO has refused to disclose the results on the grounds that contravenes data protection legislation. SPC do not accept this explanation. The FOI request and response are at Attachment D.

27. At the meetings held on 31 August 2023, the HO stated that all migrants entering the UK by an illegal route would be informed of their illegal status and that, in accordance with the Migrant Bill, any asylum claim would not be considered or processed whilst they were at the Scampton Camp. The HO has made it clear that one of the main reasons for utilising the Scampton site is to make the lure of coming to the UK less attractive. Since the HO are not detaining the migrants, those migrants that are economic, now classed as illegal and facing deportation, living in portacabins on a disused airfield with limited infrastructure and who are not detained, are unlikely to remain on site. Of note, HO officials have admitted they do not know the whereabouts of more than 17,000 asylum seekers whose claims have now been discontinued⁷; many of these were reportedly dissatisfied with the hotel accommodation they were allocated.

28. This raises a number of very important issues that relate directly to the impact on and the safety of the local community and these are discussed in this letter. However, it is worth emphasising at this point that there is a great deal of understandable unease and worry in the local community and surrounding villages with regard to the open nature of the proposed camp. Residents are feeling very exposed and unprotected and are extremely concerned by the prospect of having 2000+ single males placed immediately adjacent to a community of 690 people with absolutely no effective mitigation against the increased level of risk they now face.

29. The HO have repeatedly stated that they have no experience whatsoever of establishing and operating a migrant site on the proposed scale of Scampton and have added that they are learning and adapting as they go⁸. Despite assurances that the HO and Serco have not witnessed any issues at the other HO migrant site; the evidence is to the contrary.

30. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) have stated that its medics were working with asylum seekers living at military barracks in Wethersfield. The medical team had set up outside of the former military base and said asylum seekers "*tell us their specific health needs are not being met for various reasons*". They added: "*The men we've spoken with have told us they feel isolated and alone, and that their mental health has worsened since they have arrived at the former military base.*"

⁷ Report dated 29 Nov 2023.

⁸ HO statement repeated at all meetings that took place on 31 August 2023 at the Lincolnshire Showground. A FOI request was submitted asking the HO to release recordings of these meetings but was denied on grounds of confidentiality.

31. Care4Calais has said that it intends oppose the Wethersfield site as it does not meet legally required standards and was "prison-like". Asylum seekers housed there claimed they were treated like "animals" and have suicidal thoughts. The charity has said that "*the UK government must take responsibility for this human tragedy. They have wilfully ignored the trauma they are inflicting on people who are sent to the Bibby Stockholm, and the hundreds being accommodated in former military barracks.*"⁹ "*They are being separated from the rest of society and we have witnessed a serious deterioration of people's mental health. We have regularly been reporting suicidal intentions amongst residents and no action is taken.*" Migrants have staged multiple protests over the conditions at the base complaining about a lack of medicine, blankets and clothing. Migrants have blocked vehicles from accessing the site and some migrants stated that they had been on hunger strike.

32. Recent events in the Middle East merely exacerbate the situation, since the HO plan is to accommodate 2000+ single males, aged between 18 and 65, from multiple Middle Eastern countries, potentially causing unrest. A recent Home Office report which was published and removed days later highlighted the possible tensions between two Muslim groups that would be housed at RAF Scampton. An 'equality impact assessment' was published on the UK Government website on Wednesday, 27 Dec 23, and it revealed some new details about the proposed asylum centre. The report, which was removed on 29 Dec 23 due to being 'published in error', states that some of the population of asylum seekers would be split between Sunni and Shia Islam sects which "could potentially cause tensions" on the base. Notwithstanding the obvious increased level of risk to the local community, especially given the military background of many of the residents, it is also a serious risk to the Asylum Seekers.

Risks, Concerns and Impact

33. There are approximately 340 privately owned houses on the Scampton estate immediately adjacent to the proposed asylum seeker camp. Understandably, the local community is extremely concerned about their security. The HO has stated that anyone transferred to RAF Scampton will be subject to a full screening process including identity and security checks. Initial migrant screening and processing will be undertaken at the Western Jet Foil in Dover and Manston, Kent. It is unclear how this will be possible if the migrant has no Passport or ID and the country of origin does not hold biometric data.

33. The HO has contracted Serco to manage the migrant camp and the following is an extract from a recent Serco job advertisement:

The applicant will be "*Dealing with disruptive and potentially dangerous people*"¹⁰.

34. From a security perspective, Serco's staff and any subcontracted security company will have no real powers on the site, and they will have no jurisdiction or presence in the local community immediately adjacent to the camp. The process for migrants leaving the site will be the same as the rest of the HO migrant accommodation. A formal register will be kept at the front gate to track who is on and off-site. There is no set curfew, but migrants will be expected to be back on site by 11pm, with those who do not return being contacted to ascertain whereabouts based on following up on the safety and welfare of the individual. This is in contravention of the Illegal Migration Bill which states that the migrants must be detained.

35. As a direct result of the identified increased risk that the HO proposals pose to the local community, Lincolnshire Police have been given £1.8million to allow extra officers to be recruited ahead of the arrival of the migrants. However, according to the police, this funding will only provide 3 additional officers who will only be on duty through the day and early evening. There will be no overnight security on the Scampton estate. This uplift of additional officers does not mitigate

⁹ Scampton, Wethersfield.

¹⁰ Serco job advert on Indeed.com – Regional Safeguarding Officer RAF Scampton Lincoln LN1.

against the increased risk to the local community posed by the migrant camp and Lincolnshire Police will have no jurisdiction on the site or the estate until an incident has occurred.

36. The MOD has identified that there is a potential increase in risk to its personnel living in service accommodation on the site and have offered to move any such service personnel who feel that they are at risk. It should also be noted that there are a significant number of serving or retired military personnel living in private accommodation on the estate who would also be at increased risk but do not have the benefit of being able to move.

37. The HO plans to provide, Nurse led, Primary Medical Care, for the 2000+ male migrants on site. This is a substantial and resource intensive task and will inevitably stretch the existing pool of doctors and nurses in the region. The Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group, working with the Whole Systems Partnership, have stated that there will be a shortage of 220 “autonomous” practitioners by 2025 and the county has found it notoriously difficult to recruit and retain healthcare staff over the past decade. The local GP practice, based in the neighbouring village of Welton, is already one full-time equivalent GP down and has been for the last year. The HO provision does not address the highly likely requirement for Secondary and Tertiary Medical Care and evidence from the Wethersfield site suggest that the medical cover provided is woefully inadequate. All levels of care in the region are already at breaking point and the additional strain placed on them by the asylum seeker camp will have a significant, detrimental effect on the local community.

38. As of 31 January 2023, 73 cases of diphtheria have been identified in asylum seekers with recent arrival in the UK, with the majority of these cases having been detected between October to December 2022. Cases are predominantly young males aged 14 to 25 years, with approximately half of cases being cutaneous. A proportion of asylum seekers arriving in the UK are presenting with diffuse and varied skin lesions. Testing of asylum seekers presenting with skin lesions has identified a range of pathogens including *Staphylococcus aureus*, Group A *Streptococcus* and *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*. Several individuals also presented with scabies, with co-infection frequently seen¹¹. Infection control, already an issue at other migrant camps, will no doubt be a factor at RAF Scampton and the open nature of the asylum seeker camp, will place the local community at greater risk.

39. The primary school, located on the estate, is already feeling the effect of the HO actions with families considering the withdrawal of their children due to the potential safeguarding risk posed by the proximity of the school to the migrant camp. In the worst-case scenario the school could eventually close as a result of these concerns. The HO, recognising the increased risk and the additional safeguarding requirements, has recently erected temporary fencing with overlaid tarpaulin outside the school; however, these measures do little to protect both children and parents. The primary school is approximately 1/2 mile away from the main part of the estate, and children and parents use this unprotected and unmonitored route each day. Additionally, the bus stop on the estate, which is used by children taking the school bus to local schools, is isolated from the main body of the estate leaving children vulnerable whilst waiting for the bus. Of note, the nursery school on site is not being afforded any additional security or protection by the HO.

40. There is already evidence that house prices will be severely affected by the HO proposal. Several planned sales of houses on the estate have been cancelled and house valuations conducted post the HO announcement indicate a marked reduction in house prices. As a direct result of the HO proposals and the subsequent devaluation of the properties on the estate, it is likely that Annington Homes will be keen to sell vacated service accommodation that they currently own, as soon as possible. Due to their proximity to the proposed asylum seeker camp, it is extremely unlikely that these houses will be purchased by first time buyers or families, but instead will be sold as Housing Association accommodation or to landlords. If this goes ahead, it will have a massive impact on the existing community by further devaluing houses on the estate. On or

¹¹ Guidance. Infectious diseases in asylum seekers: actions for health professionals. Gov.UK. 1 Feb 2023.

around the time of the HO announcement that they were planning to use RAF Scampton as a camp for asylum seekers, the local shop closed and is unlikely to reopen due to the associated increase in risk.

41. Additionally, as a result of the open-plan nature of the camp and the heightened security risk, it is likely that there will be an increase in House and Car Insurance premiums for the residents of the Scampton estate. Recent insurance quotes received by residents of the estate, since the HO announcement, have seen increases of up to 250%. SPC have repeatedly asked the HO to consider compensating the local residents for the significant financial impact that the migrant camp will have. The following is the reply from the HO:

“The HO appreciates the concerns of local residents and will continue to collaborate with key stakeholders to lessen the impact of using the Scampton sites on the local community. However, the HO does not intend to offer compensation for the loss of property value.”

42. It is very unlikely that the recreational facilities that the HO are proposing to place at RAF Scampton will be sufficient to occupy 2000+ male asylum seekers for the duration of their 9-month stay¹². As a result, it is highly likely that a reasonable proportion will wish to visit Lincoln centre and the surrounding villages. To address this requirement, and because of the isolated nature of RAF Scampton, the HO have stated that they will provide busses to transport migrants into Lincoln. If only half of the 2000 migrants wish to make the journey, it would equate to 50, 40-seater bus journeys per day. Those migrants who choose to walk the 6 miles into Lincoln, will have to risk crossing the incredibly busy A15 to get to the only path situated on the opposite side of the road to the site. If the migrants choose to walk into the neighbouring villages of Welton or Scampton, they will have to walk the 2-3 miles along National Speed Limit roads that have no footpaths and limited verges. Additionally, a centre housing 2000+ migrants will require significant daily resupply adding increased pressure on an already over used A15. Should the migrant camp go ahead, these factors will place not only the migrants but also other users of the A15, at increased risk.

43. It is highly likely that there will be a significant detrimental impact on the Lincolnshire Showground which is immediately adjacent to the RAF Scampton site. The Showground frequently hosts large scale events including various concerts and festivals and the Lincolnshire Show. Given the very minimal facilities and resources that will be available to the migrants and the open nature of the proposed RAF Scampton camp, it is likely that a large proportion of the 2000+ single male migrants would naturally migrate to the Showground. Most of the migrants will not be able to enter the Showground and will therefore congregate at its perimeter or at the entrances. Understandably, this might be quite intimidating to those members of the public attending the event, especially those attending by foot. This may well act as a deterrent to public participation at events, seriously impacting the viability of hosting events at the Showground and thereby negatively impacting the local economy.

Summary

44. The HO's plan to use RAF Scampton as an illegal immigrant processing site poses a substantial social and economic threat to the local area and community. The risks articulated in this letter are serious and significant and yet no valid or effective mitigations have been offered by the HO. There has been no meaningful engagement with the local community, no Impact Statement and no Dynamic Risk Assessment conducted by the HO. Little or no thought has been given by the HO to the existing infrastructure limitations at the site or to the limitations posed by RAF Scampton's rural location. Whilst lip service has been paid to the impact on local services, the wider healthcare and security implications have not been addressed. Most importantly, placing 2000+ single male asylum seekers into a community of 690 people poses an unacceptable and unmanageable risk to those living at RAF Scampton. SPC sincerely believe that the Local Plan

¹² The HO have repeatedly stated that the migrants will remain at Scampton for up to 9 months.

does not in any way support this type of use and it would be catastrophically detrimental to the regeneration of the site and long term sustainable economic growth of the region.

43. SPC also believe that the HO is contravening the Illegal Migration Bill which states that the migrants must be detained. By not detaining the illegal immigrants, the HO is placing the local community at significant risk. Notwithstanding the detrimental impacts, SPC believe that the HO's plan represents a totally unacceptable increased level of risk to the local community and would hold the HO directly responsible and accountable if any of the risks articulated by the community and captured in this letter, are realised.

Scampton Parish Council

**Attachment A to
The Risks and Impact of
the Home Office's planned
use of RAF Scampton
Dated 1 Oct 23**



Freedom of Information
Central Correspondence Team
Customer Operations Support
Services
PO Box 3468
Sheffield
S3 8WA

Melanie Newham

Email: mrsnewham@hotmail.com

Email:
FOIRequests@homeoffice.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/ukvi

FOI Reference: 78795

12 October 2023

Dear Ms Newham

Thank you for your enquiry of 20 September. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Information Requested

I would like to request a copy of the Community Impact Assessment that the Home Office have undertaken for the residents of RAF Scampton.

Response

The information that you have requested is being withheld under Section 35(1)(a) of the FOI Act.

Section 35(1)(a) of the FOIA concerns the formulation or development of Government policy. This section is statutory recognition of the public interest in allowing Government to have a clear space, immune from exposure to public view, in which it can debate matters internally with candour and free from the pressures of public political debate. Arguments for and against disclosure in terms of public interest, with the reasons for our conclusion, are set out in the annex below.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to: foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk, quoting reference 78795. If you ask for an

internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

A link to the Home Office Information Rights Privacy Notice can be found in the following link. This explains how we process your personal information:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/information-rights-privacy-notice

Yours sincerely

J Jones
Customer Operations Support Services

We value your feedback, please use the link below to access a brief anonymous survey to help us improve our service to you:
www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/s/108105TAZNG



Freedom of Information
Central Correspondence Team
Central Operations
PO Box 3468
Sheffield
S3 8WA

Melanie Newham

Email: mrsnewham@hotmail.com

Email:
FOIRequests@homeoffice.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/ukvi

FOI Reference: 78792

11 October 2023

Dear Ms. Newham,

Thank you for your enquiry of 19 September 2023, in which you requested information in respect of minutes from recent meetings in respect of RAF Scampton. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Information Requested

Following the recent meetings with the Home Office and the residents of RAF Scampton at 4 planned meetings at the Lincolnshire Showground on Thursday 31st August I would like to request copies of the recordings from all 4 of the meetings please?

Response

The Home Office holds the information that you have requested however it is exempt from disclosure under Section 41 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 41 exempts information that was provided in confidence. Arguments for and against disclosure and our conclusion are set out in the attached **Annex A** below.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk, quoting reference **78792**. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you will have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

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Yours sincerely

M Egerton
Central Operations

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<http://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/s/108105TAZNG>



Direct Communications Unit
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 020 7035 4848
www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Rt Hon Sir Edward Leigh MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

DECS Reference: TRO/1047367/23

05 December 2023

Dear Sir Edward,

Thank you for your letter of 15 November 2023 on behalf of Scampton Parish Council regarding the Home Office Multi Agency Forum (MAF) and notification of a Special Development Order application. Your letter has been passed to Asylum Support, Resettlement and Accommodation for a reply.

The Home Office has engaged with local councils, in both virtual Multi Agency Forums and in person meetings and will continue to engage with local councils and other stakeholders such as the Strategic Migration Partnership through regular engagement meetings.

We have recently restructured our engagement forums for Scampton in order to provide a more tailored focus to specific issues and want to keep a close collaborative relationship with Scampton Parish Council as one of our key stakeholders. These meetings include a communications and community safety group, which is attended by communications professionals and law enforcement officials. We set up a series of monthly meetings to communicate directly with Scampton Parish Council to ensure Council representatives are kept informed of key information and news and to replace the need for representation on the Scampton Communications and Community safety subgroup meetings from the Scampton Parish Council.

Invitations were sent to Councillors' Bulteel and Sneath for the proposed meetings of 3 November, 10 November and 1 December 2023, all of which were not attended. We have now advised Scampton Parish Council to please contact us directly should they wish to engage in the future.

The Home Office has to date led 9 engagement events for more than 1000 residents.

These engagement events, several of which were attended by representatives from Scampton Parish Council, were held for the local community and those in neighbouring areas, with the latest sessions being held on 30 November 2023 at the Lincolnshire Showground.

As previously advised, in reference to regeneration plans; from the outset of this project, the Home Office has made it clear that it recognises its responsibilities to take appropriate steps to ensure that the heritage assets at RAF Scampton are protected and preserved, and security and operational management plans will be put in place to support this. The Home Office has also committed to making a heritage asset management plan an integral part of the operational use of the site.

We remain committed to working with stakeholders regarding the future for the site and aim to be inclusive of all stakeholders.

To reiterate, the Illegal Migration Act will change the law, stipulating that people who enter the UK illegally will not have their asylum claim determined in the UK. Instead, they will be detained and then removed, either to their home country or a safe third country like Rwanda. We will act in accordance with the provisions in the Illegal Migration Act 2023, when those provisions are commenced, however, it is intended that Scampton will be used as a site for asylum accommodation, not detained accommodation.

I trust the above response goes some way to addressing the concerns you have raised.

Yours sincerely

S Rooney
ASRA Briefing and Correspondence Team
Asylum Support, Resettlement and Accommodation (ASRA)

Email: Public.Enquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk



Ms Melaine Newham
mrsnewham@hotmail.com

Freedom of Information
Central Correspondence Team
Central Operations
PO Box 3468
Sheffield
S3 8WA

Email:
FOIRequests@homeoffice.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/ukvi

FOI Reference: 77982

12 October 2023

Dear Ms Newham

Thank you for your enquiry of 10 August 2023. Your enquiries have been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Information Requested

I would like to see the results of all of the surveys concerning the condition of the accommodation, catering facilities, medical facilities and associated utilities undertaken at proposed migrant site at RAF Scampton.

I would like to request the most UpToDate costings of the work required to get RAF Scampton ready to accept migrants.

Response

Please find attached a copy of the RAF Scampton drainage survey and the Scampton report as Annex 1.

All documents provided in this response have been redacted under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. It is the general policy of the Home Office not to disclose, to a third party, personal information about another person. This is because the Home Office has obligations under data protection legislation and in law generally to protect personal data. We have concluded that the information you have requested is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the FOI Act, because of the condition at section 40(3)(a). This exempts personal data if

disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation and section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

Where appropriate, the documents have also been redacted under Section 31(1)(f) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Arguments for and against disclosure in terms of the public interest, with the reasons for our conclusion are set out in the attached labelled Annex 2 (below).

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk, quoting reference **77982**. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request would be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you were to remain dissatisfied after an internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the FOI Act.

Yours sincerely

A. Chapple
Customer Services

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