



Home Affairs Committee

25 March 2026

By email

Cllr Raymond Bremner
Leader, The Highland Council
Subject: Use of Cameron Barracks for asylum accommodation

Dear Councillor Bremner

I am writing to you about the planned use of Cameron Barracks to accommodate asylum seekers.

You may be aware that we recently conducted an inquiry examining the Home Office's management of asylum accommodation. We are now planning to examine the Government's expansion of the use of large sites. We intend to look at the rationale for using Cameron Barracks on a temporary basis and examine how the Home Office has approached the opening of the site.

In this context, it would be helpful to the Committee if you could answer the following questions:

- When was the Highland Council first informed that the Home Office was considering using Cameron Barracks for housing asylum seekers?
- Did you have any discussions with the Home Office about the potential use of the site for asylum accommodation as part of the previous Government's large sites programme?
- What licensing and planning requirements do you expect the Home Office to meet before this site can be used to house asylum seekers? What stage is the Home Office at in respect of these requirements?
- We understand that you have written to the Home Secretary to raise concerns about the suitability of the site. What are your specific concerns about the suitability of the site for use as asylum accommodation, and how has the Home Office responded?



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- Has the Home Office asked for information about the capacity of local services – such as social care – that might be impacted by the use of this site for asylum accommodation?
- Has the Home Office outlined any funding it would provide to the local authority, and if so what this funding decision is based on?
- Are you satisfied with the way in which the Home Office has engaged with the Council and the local community about the potential use of site?
- Did you encounter any difficulties or challenges when the site was in use as transitional accommodation for resettled Afghans?

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter. We would be grateful for your response by 16 April

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP
Chair of the Home Affairs Committee