



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

Jonathan Martin
Director for Project Delivery and Major Events
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
1st Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

E: enquiries@dcms.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dcms

Baroness Coussins
Chair, National Resilience Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

23 July 2026

Dear Baroness Coussins,

I am writing to follow up on a question Lord Oates asked at the House of Lords Select Committee on National Resilience on Thursday 9 July. Lord Oates asked whether “DCMS or Cabinet Office, or any other Government Department held a centralised list of nationwide facilities that could be used in the event of mass evacuation and shelter, including locations and which organisations were providing them.” In response, to his question, I would like to confirm the following:

There is no central list of national facilities that could be used in the event of mass evacuation and shelter. This is because incidents vary, and facilities must suit the incident's location, considering factors like seasonal impacts.

Responders within Local Resilience Forums are responsible for developing emergency plans, including arrangements for emergency shelter. They are best placed to identify suitable response spaces, drawing on their detailed understanding of local needs, risks, geography, and established relationships with owners of civic and community assets.

At the national level, the Cabinet Office has arrangements to secure nationwide facilities if local arrangements become overwhelmed. These could include hotels, conference centres, or other suitable venues.

While the Cabinet Office holds central policy ownership, DCMS works with the Cabinet Office and the voluntary and community sector to support emergency shelter and community resilience planning.

I trust this satisfactorily answers Lord Oates's question and provides clarity for the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Martin
Director for Project Delivery and Major Events

