# THE RT HON CHRIS PHILP MP

Shadow Home Secretary
Member of Parliament for Croydon South

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA


Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP
Home Secretary
Home Office

Thursday 18 December 2025

Dear Shabana,

I am writing regarding the Home Office's decision to use Cameron Barracks, in the centre of Inverness, as accommodation for 300 young men who have entered the United Kingdom illegally.

I have spoken to Councillor Ruraidh Stewart, the leader of the Conservative Highland Council group, and Councillor Isabelle Mackenzie, who represents the ward where the site is proposed, who informed me that this location is completely inappropriate. Ruraidh, Isabelle and the Conservative Group on Highland Council have been engaging extensively with residents, including families of Service men and women currently deployed overseas as their homes border Cameron Barracks.

Inverness is a city of fewer than 50,000 people. Decisions of this scale, imposed without local consent or consultation, are wholly unacceptable. In addition, to add 300 young men to the city, in accommodation next to the wives and children of military personnel is a risk to the safety of the families. The soldiers based here are about to be deployed overseas, leaving military wives and their children living on their own in proximity to young male illegal immigrants.

I am particularly concerned about the suitability of this site given its proximity to local primary and secondary schools and the daily pedestrian routes used by pupils. Parents have raised clear safeguarding concerns about placing a large, single-sex adult population adjacent to schools and family housing. Can you confirm what specific safeguarding and risk assessments have been undertaken in relation to pupil safety, and whether these have been shared with Police Scotland, the local authority, and local schools?

We have seen cases in the news of illegal immigrants housed in hotels or HMOs committing abhorrent acts, including rape and other sexual offences. We have seen examples of this in Scotland in Falkirk where Afghan, Sadeq Nikzad, raped a 15-year-old girl. His lawyers claimed that he had not been educated about the cultural differences between the UK and Afghanistan.

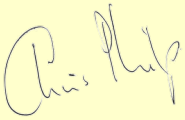
In fact, in just one week, the press reported that: three asylum seekers have appeared in court in connection with a gang rape on Brighton Beach; a failed Somali asylum seeker remanded ahead of trial for sexual assault in Bournemouth; another asylum seeker living in a hotel appeared in court accused of raping a woman in Bournemouth and two Afghan small boat migrants convicted of raping a 15-year-old girl in Leamington Spa. I urge you to think again about placing unvetted male illegal immigrants close to women and children.

There is also the impact on local health services and the fact that many illegal immigrants are being given priority access to GPs. Raigmore Hospital is often at code black and lacks capacity for local needs. Has the Home Office made any assessment of the impact of hundreds of migrants being moved into the area on local services?

Finally, the councillors have informed me that no clear or detailed proposal has been provided to Highland Council regarding the intended use, scale, duration, or operational model for Cameron Barracks. Planning permission to use this site must be obtained if the barracks are being used for longer than six months as the established use class of the barracks is Class 8A. Comparable cases (e.g. Epping Forest) have been classified as Sui Generis or hostel use (Class 7), both of which would require planning consent. The councillors informed me that planning permission has not been applied for.

I urge you to organise a meeting with senior officials and the local public to give residents the opportunity to raise all these questions directly with the Home Office. They deserve to have their voices heard.

Yours sincerely,



**Rt Hon Chris Philp MP**
Shadow Home Secretary

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