

13 July 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL

Dear Sir or Madam,

Oxford City Council formally objects to the proposed increase in capacity at Campsfield IRC.

Our objection to the use of Campsfield as a detention centre is long-standing and well founded. In November 2022, when this government sought to re-open Campsfield after half a decade of closure, we passed a motion condemning the proposal with wide cross-party support, highlighting the long history this centre has had of poor conditions and outcomes for those housed there. Our position has not changed. Detention centres remain an inhumane and expensive solution. We reiterated this position in October 2024 and wrote to the Home Secretary setting out that position.

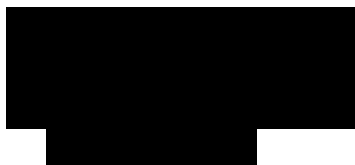
Oxford City is proud to be a City of Sanctuary and groups that we work with, such as Asylum Welcome, are among many to have expressed concerns about the way in which Campsfield House operated and the conditions under which migrants were held there.

Oxford City Council is committed to the values of the City of Sanctuary programme, pledging to work for the creation of a safe and welcoming environment for those seeking sanctuary. Oxford and the council have a proud history of supporting and welcoming refugees and opposing detention. Maintaining our opposition to the re-opening of Campsfield House is an important part of this.

Oxford City Council believes that the UK's asylum system needs major overhaul, including through the opening of safe and legal routes for people to claim asylum - and we welcome steps that the government is taking to put this in place. We also welcome the big improvements in the time to take decisions on asylum claims and the reduction in the use of hotel accommodation.

To reiterate, it is the position of Oxford City Council that we oppose the reopening of Campsfield IRC as a detention centre.

Yours faithfully,



Leader, Oxford City Council



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