

LAYLA MORAN MP

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Crown Applications Team

Our Ref: FN/LM50349
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Dear Crown Applications Team,

Residents across Oxfordshire have been shocked to learn of plans to expand the Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre to 400 places.

Immigration detention is incredibly costly, destabilising to our local community, harmful to detainees, and is not an effective tool for reducing illegal migration. Spending hundreds of millions of pounds of taxpayers' money on the expansion of this detention centre defies logic.

What the government should be doing is focusing on the sky high asylum backlog and creating legal, safe routes, rather than wasting hundreds of millions of hard working taxpayers' money. Time and time again we have seen the evidence that immigration detention harms people's mental health, that the harm grows with the length of detention, and continues well after their release.

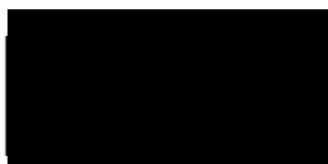
When Campsfield was previously used, it led to hunger strikes, breakouts, disturbances, arson and suicides – this can't be allowed to happen again.

Sir Stephen Shaw's exhaustive national inquiry concluded that as well as being harmful, detention is wasteful and ineffective. Campsfield was one of four centres closed as a result with community-based approaches were shown to work and to be better value for money.

It is also worrying to see that the government is using the Crown Development Route to apply for permission for this expansion. By by-passing local democracy, local residents have no way of registering legitimate concerns about this proposal and highlight the impact on local communities.

I support local communities who ask that the Planning Inspectorate/Secretary of State should not approve the application without a further, comprehensive public inquiry as allowed for by the CDO legislation and allow local voices to be heard.

Best wishes,



Layla Moran