

Immigration Detention
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Councillor Lesley McLean
Oxfordshire County Council
Cherwell District Council

By email:

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5 December 2025

Dear Cllr McLean,

Opening of Campsfield Immigration Removal Centre

As a key stakeholder and an interested party with regards to immigration detention in Oxfordshire, I am writing to provide you with an update on the refurbishment and opening of Campsfield Immigration Removal Centre (IRC).

The Home Office have been proceeding with plans to redevelop an IRC at the former Campsfield House, near Oxford. Development is being undertaken in two phases: refurbishment of existing buildings (Phase 1) and new build accommodation (Phase 2).

Phase 1 is now complete and will provide refurbished accommodation that meets modern standards and guidance in relation to the occupancy, size and layout of rooms and the provision of health, facilities and services.

Around 160 bed spaces have been created in the refurbished accommodation. (For reference, there were 282 beds in the former IRC).

The site is a secure IRC. Detained men will be held under immigration powers and will not be free to leave the centre or access the local area. The IRC has robust physical security measures and appropriate security procedures in place to ensure the facility operates safely and securely.

The IRC will hold a mixture of time-served foreign national offenders and immigration offenders while we prepare to remove them from the UK. An individual may be detained under immigration powers under certain circumstances, for example whilst their identity is being established, where there is a risk of absconding, or in support of the return of an individual with no legal right to be in the UK.

All rooms will meet the standards as set out in the [accommodation standards](#) Detention Service Order (DSO). Bedrooms will primarily be dual occupancy.

Any provision of recreational, educational, healthcare, living and faith-related facilities for individuals detained at the facility will be entirely contained onsite.

In July it was announced that Mitie Care and Custody had been chosen as the new supplier to operate Campsfield IRC, on behalf of the Home Office.

Healthcare services are separately commissioned by NHS England, [the same as other IRCs in England] and there will be no impact on primary healthcare services provided within the local community.

We have aligned our environmental and climate change sustainability strategy with our suppliers to ensure that the buildings and infrastructure built at Campsfield contribute towards net zero carbon emissions and reduce operational costs.

Our sustainability performance has been measured using the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) which is a sustainability certification method which uses 10 different measurement categories such as materials, energy, water, waste, pollution and more, to rate environmental performance.

The refurbishment has used sustainable architecture techniques that use the natural environment to reduce energy. This includes air source heat pumps, solar panels to offset energy use, improved insulation, and air tightness.

An improved car park has also been provided for staff and visitors. The car park is safe, secure and meets the standards required for planning. In addition, there is a regular public bus service from Oxford Parkway Train Station to a bus stop near Campsfield IRC, as well as a shuttle bus service from Oxford Parkway Train Station which is provided by Mitie Care & Custody to ensure visitors who travel by train can easily access the centre.

Phase 2 (the new build) will provide in the region of 240 beds, meaning a total capacity of 400 beds once the development is completed. Planning consent will be obtained before we proceed with phase 2 of the development.

The Government remains clear that immigration detention plays a limited but essential role in maintaining effective immigration controls and securing the UK's borders. Accordingly, the immigration removal estate is kept under ongoing review to ensure that the Home Office has sufficient resilience, geographical footprint and capacity for the men and women it is necessary to detain for the purposes of removal, while providing value for money.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Will Round', written in a cursive style.

Will Round
Senior Responsible Owner
Immigration Removal Centre Expansion Programme

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