

From: [Information Redacted]

Sent: 17 September 2020 16:06

To: [Information Redacted]

Subject: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: Follow up information regarding Penally site

Colleagues,

From the list of concerns initially raised by [Information Redacted] please refer to the below information to work towards providing the requested clarity.

I will share more information in due course,

Kind regards,

[Information Redacted]

- What is the Demographic of group.
 - Will demographic profile change- will want to know in advance who is coming and if anything changes want to be informed: [We will only be accommodating single adult males at the site.](#)
 - What are the staffing levels in the facility? [The facility will be staffed 24/7 by Clearsprings, including 24/7 security at the gate. Full details of staffing levels will be confirmed, and will be kept under review.](#)
- Why Penally
 - What is the minimum standard of accommodation and who is determining it- is there an immediate requirement for LA public protection team to look at standard? [The site will provide safe and secure accommodation in line with our statutory responsibility to provide destitute asylum seekers with accommodation.](#)
 - Concern Clearsprings being used, Pembrokeshire does not have a relationship with them at present so would be starting from scratch. [We are working with Clearsprings and all partners to ensure that Clearsprings are fully neared and an effective working relationship can be established.](#)
- Is this a short term or long term fix?
 - If there is any potential for them to be housed permanent off site the LA would have an interest and require information.
 - Questioned what happens with Leave to Remain in Pembs – Pembrokeshire doesn't have the accommodation to manage single males.
[This accommodation is temporary, contingency accommodation whilst we continue to address the issues putting pressure on our asylum accommodation. This includes resuming support cessations, to get people moving out of accommodation when their cases are concluded.](#)
- COMMS: Need for solid comms strategy-
[We have a dedicated point of contact within our Press Office for all enquiries regarding the use of the site and have shared details with the appropriate people within Pembrokeshire LA and others to ensure we have a co-ordinated response to](#)

media enquiries. We have a team set up within the Home Office to lead on managing all communications around the use of the site.

At the bottom of this email are press lines circulated to the operations group.

- Public services and support- what are we putting in place?
 - Greater potential for trauma of residents coming in- have we information we can share to understand the support needs to ensure we can facilitate their support
 - Need to recognise that Public service are stretched already this will stretch further.
 - Note LA have talked to Hwyl Dda Health Board and they perceive there will be will be issues. Local primary care is limited as a lack of GPs so pressures there and on the MH services.
 - 3rd sector support will need funding
 - Has Adult education been considered to help with language and culture.
 - Have we considered the resident Spiritual and religious needs?
 - Public funding - anticipate some funding
 - Core local authority series such as waste collection- has this been thought about as additional pressure on current service?

We are working on the same principle as in other asylum seeker accommodation however we recognise the challenges the location of the site presents in terms of accessibility and are working with our contractor to identify and address and additional services we may need to put in place to address this. This work is ongoing and further updates will be provided.

There are no plans to provide any additional funding. We will work with the relevant health authority to agree what services need to be commissioned as part of the preparations to use the site.

- Security: Recognise there is the potential of radicalised individuals being part of the group. What measures are in place to manage this group?

We take the wellbeing of asylum seekers extremely seriously and we are taking all necessary and legal steps to protect the people in our care. All incidents at our accommodation providers are reported to the Home Office immediately, and we then work with the provider to put in additional measures if required.

As part of the preparations for mobilisation of the site our contractor will conduct a comprehensive security risk assessment. More detail on this can be provided as work progresses.

The majority of the people we house abide by the conditions of their support and life in the United Kingdom and significant incidents are rare.

- COVID and health concerns.

We are acutely aware of the need to manage health care standards at the site.

We have worked with Public Health advisors throughout the coronavirus outbreak to inform a national approach, adjusted to account for local concerns. We remain in regular dialogue with public health officials.

A wide range of measures have been implemented to ensure public health guidance is adhered to.

The sleeping accommodation is in the form of dormitory blocks that at full capacity hold between 2 and 20 people. To comply with social distancing requirements the MOD have reduced occupancy in each dormitory to ensure a minimum distance of 2 metres between each bed.

We have sought Public Health England/Wales advice on how we can make best use of this accommodation, working within the constraints of the configuration, whilst minimising risks from covid-19. We will follow the model which the MOD has adopted which is to continue to use the dormitories as shared rooms but to limit occupancy

ensuring a minimum distance between beds of at least 2 metres. This will be complemented by a range of additional safety measures including increased cleaning of surfaces, availability of hand sanitisers, a track and trace system and extensive communications with residents around covid-19 control measures.

Press lines shared operations group 16 September

“During these unprecedented times the government is working with a range of partners and across departments to secure further accommodation and the MOD has offered use of some of its sites.

“When using contingency accommodation we work closely with organisations, including local authorities and law enforcement, throughout the process to ensure value for money and that vulnerable asylum seekers, who would otherwise be destitute, have suitable accommodation while their claims are processed.”

Further lines

- We are committed to ensuring asylum claims are considered without unnecessary delay and that those who need protection are granted it as soon as possible, so they can start to integrate and rebuild their lives.
- We are exploring with a range of partners and other government departments opportunities for further accommodation. Following the submission of request, the MOD and the Army have been fully supportive in trying to reach a workable solution
- Ordinarily, if an asylum seeker is granted refugee status, they can work and access mainstream benefits including local authority housing assistance. If their claim is rejected, they are expected to leave the country and cannot access support, unless they cannot leave for reasons outside of their control.
- Since the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Home Office ceased ending this support for people who had been granted asylum, or whose claim had been refused. This was to ensure that people were not made homeless and able to follow social distancing.
- The Home Office is now able to begin cessations of support in a phased way which will reduce demand on the asylum system while prioritising the safety of those within the asylum system. This will help relieve pressure on contingency accommodation, such as hotels.
- We will always seek to remove migrants who have travelled through a safe country and have no right to remain in the UK - people should claim asylum in the first safe country they enter. There are safe European countries with functioning asylum systems - those seeking refuge can and should claim asylum there.
- We continue to return those who do not have a legitimate claim despite barriers to removals under the Dublin Regulations and legal challenges.

[Information Redacted]

Senior Portfolio Manager – Vulnerability, Immigration and Counter Terrorism

Uwch Rheolwr Portffolio – Bregusrwydd, Mewnfudo a Gwrthderfysgaeth

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