

HUW MERRIMAN MP
(Bexhill and Battle)



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Minister of State for Immigration
Home Office
Direct Communications Unit
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Our Ref: HM32777

11 October 2023

Dear Rob

I am writing regarding the proposed new asylum seeker accommodation centre at the Northeye site in Bexhill.

I recently met with your Home Office officials who are developing the proposals for the site. They advised me, as you have, that feasibility studies are currently being undertaken with a view to bringing forward a facility that would be for detention purposes only. This is a preferable option for those residents in Bexhill who were concerned about the ramifications from an open and non-detained site.

I understand that matters remain under consideration, lest there be any issues with a detained site. I further understand that it may take until January 2024 for this due diligence to be concluded.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that the detained model is the only proposal currently being taken forward by the Home Office. This will avoid confusion whilst matters are under consideration and not finalised. It would also be helpful if the online Bexhill Factsheet could reflect this position.

I look forward to hearing from you with this confirmation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Huw Merriman". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light yellow rectangular background.

Huw Merriman
Member of Parliament for Bexhill and Battle

Please reply to: Constituency Office, 29-31 Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 1EE
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