

The Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP Secretary of State for the Home Department  
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Foighnich airson/Please ask for: **Councillor Raymond Bremner**  
Àireamh fòn/Direct phone: (01463) 702856  
Ur n-Àireamh-iùil/Your ref:  
Ar n-Àireamh-iùil/Our ref: RB/GM

Ceann-latha/Date: 26 November 2025

Dear Home Secretary

### **Proposed use of Inverness Cameron Barracks for Male Asylum Seekers**

We refer to our joint letter of 13 November 2025 (copy attached for ease of reference) that we sent in which we raised several issues in relation to the proposal by the Home Office to use Inverness Cameron Barracks for Male Asylum Seekers. We are extremely disappointed that there has not yet been a substantive response.

In that letter, among several questions that were raised, we requested that the Home Office provide a copy of the implementation plan for this proposal.

It is difficult not to conclude that either the Home Office intend to proceed without sharing the implementation plan, which will cause considerable difficulties for the Council and other key public sector partners, or there is no implementation plan which demonstrates utterly inadequate preparation and a total disregard for the communities in Highland.

We must advise you that the Council has sought Counsel's Opinion on both the applicable planning and licensing requirements for such a proposal and seek your assurance that this proposal will be fully compliant with the relevant Scottish legislation. For example, we believe HMO licences will be required, and our expectation is that these would be sought prior to operation. We cannot afford for a precedent to be set that HMO licensing is not mandatory.

We would reiterate our earlier request that the Home Office engage openly with the Council and adopt a flexible approach to addressing these genuine concerns.

We would be happy to discuss these issues in more detail with you.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely / Leis gach deagh dhùrachd,

Councillor Raymond Bremner  
**Leader of The Highland Council**

An Comhairliche Raymond Bremner  
**Ceannard Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd**

Councillor Bill Lobban  
**Convener of the Highland Council**

Councillor Alasdair Christie  
**Leader of the Opposition**

**Councillor Raymond Bremner**  
Leader of The Highland Council

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