



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

18 September 2020

Dear Householder

There has been a lot of media and online activity during the last week around the proposal to house asylum seekers at the MoD facility in Penally.

Since notification of this (which we received last weekend) there have been a number of questions raised which I have taken up with the Home Secretary, the MoD and others.

The attached question and answer sheet deals with the bulk of these in a factual and informative way. For further information and updates, please check my website: simon-hart.com or Facebook page.

Since this issue became public, the Home Office has created what they call the “Asylum Accommodation Strategic Group for Wales” which includes the local council, health board, police, Public Health Wales, Welsh Government, Wales Office and others. It is worth remembering that the Home Office has extensive legal powers in this policy area.

Whether we agree with the legal position or not, we remain bound by EU law on this matter until the end of the transition period in December. It is therefore important that the organisations listed above are able to devote their full effort to minimising the local impact, while exercising the compassion and tolerance for which the UK and Wales has built an international reputation. If we compromise this, rather than addressing the fears some have expressed we will increase the prospect of tensions and restrict the ability of the authorities to address them.

As ever during Covid, the position changes all the time so I will remain in daily contact with residents and stakeholders as well as the Home Office to make sure that local interests are protected in what is a very difficult time for everybody.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Simon Hart'.

Rt Hon Simon Hart MP
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire