Home Office Public Statement– Haslar immigration removal centre

Detention plays a crucial role in maintaining effective immigration control and securing our borders. It is right that we seek to remove those with no right to be here, be they illegal migrants or foreign-born criminals.

Over 80,000 illegal migrants have been removed or deported from British soil under this government, an increase of 52%. This includes over 11,700 foreign criminals – a 41% increase since taking office.

The Home Office is expanding the immigration detention estate in order to provide the secure detention capacity needed to progress the lawful removal of people who have no right to remain in the United Kingdom. Every additional detention bedspace translates to more offenders and illegal migrants removed from our country as we restore order and control to our borders while providing sanctuary to those genuinely fleeing danger.

We recognise that the redevelopment of Haslar immigration removal centre (IRC) is a significant concern for people living nearby, and that residents want clear information about the purpose of the site, how it will operate and what the Home Office is doing to manage its impact on the local community.

Haslar IRC is being developed in two phases. Phase 1 will refurbish the existing accommodation to provide around 130 safe and secure places for adult men. Subject to the planning process and the necessary approvals, Phase 2 would provide new accommodation and increase the centre's total capacity to around 600 places. No final planning decision has been taken on Phase 2.

The safety of the public, staff and people in detention is fundamental. Haslar IRC will be a secure, detained site, combining refurbished and new-build accommodation designed to modern standards, with all facilities for detained individuals provided on site. Men held there will not be free to leave the centre or access the local community. The centre will have robust physical security, controlled access and appropriate operating procedures, all of which will be tested and assured before it opens. The IRC will also be subject to independent scrutiny, including by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons and the Independent Monitoring Board.

The Home Office understands the concerns raised about construction noise, parking, litter and communication and will provide a named contact for local residents to enable action to be taken in a timely manner. The Home Office and its contractors continue to monitor these issues and have introduced mitigations, including dedicated contractor parking arrangements, daily litter picking and the use of Fort Road Car Park to reduce pressure on residential streets. We will provide a monthly written Home Office-led communication to neighbouring residents so that they receive timely updates on construction, planning and the steps being taken to reduce local impacts.

The Home Office will continue to engage constructively with residents, Dame Caroline Dinenage MP, Gosport Borough Council and other local partners as the project progresses.

We will listen to concerns, provide clear information and ensure the redevelopment is delivered safely, securely and with proper regard for the community.