

From: [Information Redacted]
Sent: 16 September 2020 12:57
To: [Information Redacted]
Cc: [Information Redacted]
Subject: RE: URGENT - Update on Penally camp plans

Hi [Information Redacted]
Please find the requested update to the questions you raised at Fridays meeting with [Information Redacted] and myself relating to Penally.

Specific questions raised:

- What are the numbers? At full capacity the site can accommodate up to 478 people. We anticipate being able to accommodate a maximum of 250 people to comply with social distancing requirements
- What is the layout, are there individual bed spaces? If it is not individual spaces feel this would be a deterioration of needs being met?
The accommodation comprises of a mixture of accommodation, ranging from single rooms through to 20 man dormitories (at full capacity) – we will be accommodating less people than this in line with social distancing requirements and public health advice. The site will provide safe and secure accommodation in line with our statutory responsibility to provide destitute asylum seekers with accommodation.
- Can you confirm the spread across the UK is it proportionate?
This site is one of a number of options we are looking at across the UK and we are working at pace to procure more accommodation across the UK from both the public and private sector in order to meet demand in the immediate and longer term.
- What is the duration of use?
Up to 12 months
- Can you guarantee stand down after 12 months?
We will keep WG abreast of the situation at this point we are working to 12 months
- What services will there be as this area is not as set up and accessible as other asylum areas?
We are working on the same principle as in 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.
- WG question whether there will be any funding to support the health service as adding c450 beds in an area that doesn't have expertise with asylum seekers will need money to be able to deal with and support that population?
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.
- Who will be accommodated, single adults or families and children?
The site will only accommodate single, adult males
- Will this be considered as initial accommodation?

The accommodation is intended to provide additional accommodation for asylum seekers whilst we make arrangements for their move into dispersed accommodation.

- What is the times frame for standing this up?
We are working to bring the first service users on to the site on 21 September.
- What will the comms be around this given the recent far right action. Unlikely to also keep this out of the public domain given the area?
We have a dedicated point of contact within our Press Office for all enquiries regarding the use of the site and are happy to link them 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, headed up by [Information Redacted] A number of engagement events with partners have already been set up including an Asylum Accommodation Strategic Engagement Group and the Multi Agency forum being co-ordinated by the Wales Strategic Migration Partnership.
- What about Security? Confirmed part of the planning is doing the security risk assessment
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.
- In terms of other options why haven't you mandated LAs to take their share?
There are no plans at this time to mandate dispersal. The Home Office is working closely with a wide range of local authorities to increase the number of areas that accommodate and support people seeking asylum and protection and every local authority is encouraged to contribute
- Who is the programme team and can WG have a contact?
The project team is made up of a variety of Home Officials with experience in asylum accommodation procurement as well as Commercial and legal expertise. The project team is led by [Information Redacted].

Please come back to me if you have any further questions,

Thanks,

[Information Redacted]

[Information Redacted]

Senior Portfolio Manager – Vulnerability, Immigration and Counter Terrorism

Uwch Rheolwr Portffolio – Bregusrwydd, Mewnfudo a Gwrthderfysgaeth

Home Office Wales Team | Home Office

Tîm Cymru'r Swyddfa Gartref | Swyddfa Gartref

Tel/Ffon:  [Information Redacted]  [Information Redacted]

Email/Ebost: [Information Redacted]

From: [Information Redacted]

Sent: 13 September 2020 22:25

To: [Information Redacted]

Subject: URGENT - Update on Penally camp plans

Importance: High

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Good evening [Information Redacted]

We spoke on Friday morning about Home Office plans to utilise the Penally army training camp as an asylum reception centre for up to 454 asylum seekers. I raised quite a few questions and you undertook to come back to me with as much information as possible by the end of the day. However, I have not received a follow up email with the requested detail – could you please provide this on Monday?

Can you also outline what communication you have now had with Pembrokeshire County Council, MoD and Hywel Dda Health Board? When I spoke to Pembrokeshire Council officials on Friday afternoon they were unaware of the proposal

I am likely to need to convene a multi-agency planning meeting next week to ensure we can mitigate community tensions, do what we can to put in place services and build effective channels of communication. Before I do this, can you please let me know what your plans are for multi-agency planning?

Time is of the essence with this given the current context of far right protests. The proposal has already been mentioned in local press in Wales and well-known far right activists have been alerted on Twitter.

Thank you,

[Information Redacted]

Head of Inclusion, Cohesion and Brexit Coordination /
Pennaeth Cynhwysiant, Cydlyniant, a Chydgysylltu Materion Brexit

Yr Is-Adran Gymunedau / Communities Division
Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government

[Information Redacted]

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