

Promotional material

Factsheet: RAF Scampton asylum accommodation (accessible)

Updated 5 April 2023

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What is RAF Scampton?

- Royal Air Force (RAF) Scampton is a Ministry of Defence (MoD) site located in Lincolnshire. It was until recently the home of the RAF Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows, who have now moved to nearby RAF Waddington. Their use of the airspace above RAF Scampton continues until 1 April.
- The Home Office, supported by the MoD, is working on proposals which will see the current site at RAF Scampton used for suitable accommodation for asylum seekers.
- We are working closely with stakeholders, including local authorities and our contractors, to ensure that accommodation provided for those seeking asylum is suitable.

Who will be accommodated at the asylum accommodation large site at RAF Scampton?

- The site will accommodate single adult male asylum seekers.

Why RAF Scampton?

- RAF Scampton has been identified as a surplus military site that is suitable for the purposes of asylum accommodation.
- The site will create new jobs and bring investment into the area, following the draw-down of the RAF facility.
- The site at RAF Scampton will provide accommodation for asylum seekers and is designed to be as self-sufficient as possible, helping to minimise the impact on local communities and services.

How long will asylum seekers be accommodated at RAF Scampton?

- We are assessing how long asylum seekers will be accommodated at RAF Scampton.

How many asylum seekers will be accommodated at RAF Scampton?

- The Home Office plan to use a phased approach to moving people on site starting with c.200 people and increasing to 2,000 people over time.

- The Home Office is working with the service provider to ensure the site runs smoothly and minimises any impact on the wider community.

What about local people living near RAF Scampton?

- The site is designed to minimise the impact on local communities and services, e.g., catering facilities and basic primary care will be available on site.
- We continue to work closely with key local stakeholders to address their concerns and minimise any potential impacts on the local area.

Are people able to come and go as they please?

- The site is self-contained, although those living at the site would be free to come and go.
- If an asylum seeker were not back on site by 11pm the team would make a call to the individual to ensure they are alright and do not need assistance. This would not be under curfew conditions; it would be based on following up on the safety and welfare of the individual.

Is RAF Scampton suitable for accommodating people?

- Under Sections 95 and 98 of the Immigration Act 1999, the Home Secretary has a statutory obligation to provide destitute asylum seekers with accommodation.
- Accommodation and onsite facilities at RAF Scampton are designed to ensure the essential needs of those accommodated there are met.
- There will be robust processes in place to assess and manage the requirements of anyone who would be accommodated at the site.
- We will work with the service provider and local transport companies to ensure anyone housed at RAF Scampton would be able to obtain all their essential needs.

What about the Heritage at RAF Scampton?

- The Home Office recognises the importance of the rich heritage at RAF Scampton and is committed to preserving and enhancing the heritage assets at the site. We will not be using any of the heritage assets within our accommodation plans.
- The Home Office has undertaken significant engagement with Historic England. We will create an Operational Management Plan (OMP) which will set out clear

actions and responsibilities to protect the heritage assets at RAF Scampton.

Will vulnerable people be accommodated at RAF Scampton?

- We will assess individual's suitability to reside at RAF Scampton and will only accommodate single adult males who are considered suitable to reside there.
- Each person's suitability will be assessed at regular intervals.
- There are plans for medical services to be provided onsite at RAF Scampton.
- All asylum seekers in the UK may contact Migrant Help 24 hours a day, 365 days a year if they need help, advice, or guidance, that includes raising issues relating to safeguarding.

Who is running RAF Scampton?

- RAF Scampton will be operated under the supervision of the Home Office by an existing asylum accommodation provider. What kind of security measures will be put in place?
- To ensure security forms an integral part of the proposed site, a specialist security provider will be working on site 24/7, introducing measures such as mobile CCTV units.
- We are working closely with local police forces and MoD teams to ensure appropriate security arrangements are in place. The safety and security of the local communities, those asylum seekers on the sites and the sites themselves are of the utmost importance.

Has a final decision been made on the asylum accommodation site at RAF Scampton?

- The Home Secretary has agreed that RAF Scampton will be used as a site for asylum accommodation.
- The site is urgently needed to provide essential asylum accommodation and would assist as we seek to reduce the use of asylum seekers using hotels, which is costing the taxpayer more than £6 million a day.

When will the site at RAF Scampton open?

- The Home Office is currently developing the site at RAF Scampton to be used for asylum accommodation. Physical works to mobilise the site will begin shortly.
- It is our intention to use a phased approach, gradually increasing the number of asylum seekers accommodated at the site over time. How will this impact local

services, including health?

- For all sites, we are considering the impact on local services including the NHS, police and fire services and working with local partners to develop bespoke plans that take account of local environmental issues, heritage and any risks associated with each site. This includes basic on-site healthcare to limit pressures on local NHS services. All sites will have 24/7 security.
- The government currently provides £3,500 to local authorities for new and occupied dispersal beds. This £3,500 funding for local authorities will be extended to sites at Wethersfield and Scampton.

Are transport services being provided?

- When off-site services are required, transport services will be available, linking up to the nearest town or city.
- Those living on site are free to leave and return to the site as desired
- To ensure self-sufficiency, the site will operate dedicated bus transport to local urban areas
- Asylum seekers will be taken to in-person legal or medical appointments by dedicated bus transport

General Q&A

What happens to migrants once they arrive in the UK via small boat?

- Small boat crossings are dangerous, unnecessary and put lives at risk. There have been appalling and preventable tragedies in the Channel which must stop.
- We aim to deter illegal entry to the UK, break the business model of people smugglers and protect the lives of those they endanger.
- Migrants are intercepted by Border Force and brought to facilities in Dover to begin processing their asylum claims.
- Full screening of people's identity, security checks, initial asylum screening and processing is undertaken at the Western Jet Foil in Dover and Manston, Kent.
- Migrants are then securely moved to suitable accommodation locations as quickly as possible.

What are large scale accommodation sites?

- The introduction of new asylum accommodation large sites will look to provide safe, suitable and more cost-effective accommodation for asylum seekers. In doing so, they will help to reduce the government's dependency on the use of hotels to accommodate migrants who have entered the UK illegally.

How much is this going to cost the UK taxpayer?

- The use of contingency accommodation for asylum seekers, such as hotels, is costing the taxpayer £6 million a day.
- Plans to develop these large-scale sites will ensure cheaper and more accommodation is provided for people crossing in small boats.

Background

- The unprecedented and unacceptable rise in dangerous small boat crossings continues to put huge pressure on the UK's broken asylum system.
- The sharp increase in crossings means there are currently 45,000 asylum seekers living in hotels around the country. These hotels cost the taxpayer more than £6 million a day.
- These illegal, unnecessary and dangerous crossings divert our finite resources from those in genuine need.
- The aim is to fix this broken asylum system, allowing us to support those in genuine need while preventing abuse of the system and deterring illegal entry to the UK.

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