

Press release - 26 August 2026 - For immediate use

Public Inquiry announced into expansion of Campsfield Campaigners call on new Prime Minister to drop expansion plan

There will be a Public Inquiry into Government plans to expand Campsfield Immigration detention centre near Kidlington north of Oxford. No date has yet been set. Announcing its decision yesterday, the Planning Inspectorate said:

'The application will follow the inquiry procedure. The application has generated considerable local interest; some of the issues raised are complex and the evidence would benefit from formal cross-examination.'

Addressing Andrew Burnham, in a statement the Coalition to Close Campsfield said:

'We say to the new Prime Minister:

'You have your Makerfield Test. We have our Campsfield Test.

'We support your talk of "Taking power out of the centre and putting it in the hands of the people and places who can use it best."

'So: Let our elected representatives decide!

'They oppose the reopening and expansion of Campsfield.

'The government should respond to the news of the Public Inquiry by announcing that it is withdrawing its planning application.'

Note: The over 250 objectors to the proposal include the local Kidlington town, Cherwell District (the planning authority), Oxford City and Oxfordshire County councils and Oxford Trades Union Council, and local MPs [Calum Miller](#) (Bicester and Woodstock) and Layla Moran (Oxford West and Abingdon). Many of over 100 Oxfordshire people objecting to the Planning Inspectorate identify as nearby local residents or as workers in the Oxford Technology Park adjacent to Campsfield.

Notable submissions are from [Amnesty International UK](#) and from [Gentjan Lybeshari](#), who was imprisoned in Campsfield this year. The main point made in submissions is that the government application fails to demonstrate that expansion is required to address a matter of 'national importance'. Nearly all submissions address planning issues of the Green Belt, conflict with the Local Plan, and the incompatibility between a high-security prison and the Oxford Technology Park (part of the Oxford to Cambridge growth arc). Objectors claim that key information has been withheld and that the harm detention does is not addressed in the application. They also object to the use of the Crown Development procedure to override the local planning authority.

Attachment: Report on submissions made to the Planning Inspectorate re Campsfield

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