

PRESS RELEASE - 5 AUGUST 2026 - FOR IMMEDIATE USE

Public demands halt to expansion of detention

Pivotal moment in history of immigration detention

Only 2 of 260 submissions to consultation support expansion of Campsfield

Government plans to expand immigration detention by 1000 places – reversing a reform programme that closed four centres and set up successful ‘community-based’ alternatives to detention – have been roundly rejected by the public in a [Planning Inspectorate consultation](#).

Objectors to the proposal to expand Campsfield immigration detention centre in Kidlington north Oxford from 160 to 400 places 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 [René Cassin](#), from [Gentjan Lybeshari](#), who was imprisoned in Campsfield this year and gives a damning indictment of both the system and the treatment he received personally, the [Association of Visitors to immigration Detainees](#), and, jointly, the local [Coalition to Close Campsfield and Right To Remain](#).

Key points made in submissions

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.

Coalition to Close Campsfield spokesperson Bill MacKeith said:

‘The Crown Development route used by government to impose the expansion of Campsfield to 400 places (and Haslar in Gosport to 600) is unacceptable. We

demand that the Planning Inspectorate rejects the application. Failing that, it should refer the matter to a public inquiry for proper scrutiny.

Attachment

Report on submissions made to the Planning Inspectorate re Campsfield

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