



16 March 2024

By email only

Dear Sir Edward,

You will be aware of ongoing discussions around capacity at Scampton asylum accommodation site. I can now confirm a formal decision, which I outline below.

Following a review of occupancy capacity at Scampton site, the Home Office has made a decision to cap the regular occupancy. As an operational decision this is separate from ongoing decisions relating to planning permission being sought via the Special Development Order (SDO).

The regular occupancy numbers at Scampton will be a maximum of 800 services (from 2000). Occupancy caps will be aligned with Wethersfield. At both sites we intend on having additional accommodation.

This means that during normal operation of the site, the population will not exceed 800. However, if capacity is required to deal with unexpected higher than forecast levels of intake, a decision may be taken to utilise the additional c.300 bedspaces for short and defined periods of time. If this is the case, there will be a detailed schedule of activity to return the site to a maximum population of 800 as soon as possible.

As part of our review of the capacity cap, we have taken into account lessons learned as we have increased occupancy on site at Wethersfield and listened to the feedback and concerns of the local community, and I am sure this will be welcome news to you.

It is important that we are reducing hotel costs and delivering our asylum accommodation sites in a safe and orderly manner. Implementing a cap on occupation demonstrates that our priority is listening to local concerns, mitigating impacts, and managing the site safely.

The capacity cap allows us to maintain absolute focus on service delivery.

Planning permission via the SDO is a separate process and due to timings on this decision on capacity, planning permission is still being sought for planning at 2000 service users.

With best wishes,

Yours ever,

Tom Pursglove MP
Minister for Legal Migration and the Border