HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Anna Turley MP
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our Ref: MD53785

31st July 2026

Dear Minister,

Copthorne Hotel Asylum Accommodation

I am writing following the recent change in Government and your appointment as Minister for Immigration to raise again the ongoing situation at the Copthorne Hotel and the growing concerns being expressed by the local community.

The use of the Copthorne Hotel for asylum accommodation has now lasted for several years. While local residents have, on the whole, shown patience and understanding throughout this period, it is increasingly clear that public patience is wearing thin, and there is growing frustration that there remains no clear end in sight. Indeed, despite the Copthorne Hotel being one of the longest-used asylum hotels, there continues to be a perception that the closure of other hotels is being prioritised.

There is still a lack of certainty about the future of the site or the Government's long-term intentions. All we continue to hear is that the hotel should be closed by 2029, which is unacceptable to my constituents. Concerns that were initially tolerated as temporary arrangements are now becoming entrenched sources of frustration, anxiety and fear within the community especially as the hotel population has skewed towards being predominantly single, adult males along with the tensions, anti-social behaviour and unwanted attention to women, girls and children that has brought. I have raised these issues, on behalf of my constituents, many times with your predecessor and am keen to bring this to your attention.

I recently organised a stakeholder meeting involving local partners and relevant agencies, including the Home Office, and I was grateful for their attendance. Those around the table were clear that, while third-party providers and statutory agencies continue to manage the day-to-day operation of the site professionally, the overall risk environment is becoming more challenging. The shared assessment was that pressures are increasing rather than decreasing and that social tensions within the local community are becoming more pronounced.

Residents continue to report concerns regarding illegal working, and I note that these concerns have previously been raised with Home Office representatives. While enforcement activity and monitoring arrangements are welcome, there remains a growing perception locally that rules are not being applied consistently or robustly enough. This perception risks further undermining public confidence in the asylum system.

Equally concerning is the effect on community cohesion. The prolonged use of the hotel has contributed to increasing tensions between differing groups within the local area and has become a focal point for wider frustrations surrounding asylum and immigration policy. Local people want reassurance that their concerns are being heard, that public safety remains paramount, and that a credible plan exists to reduce pressures on the community.

I would therefore be grateful if we could meet as a matter of urgency to discuss the following:

1. An update on the Government's plans for the future use of the Copthorne Hotel.
2. Details of any timetable for reducing occupancy and ultimately ending the use of the site for asylum accommodation.
3. Information on measures being taken to address reports of illegal working and wider enforcement concerns.
4. An assessment of how the Home Office is monitoring community impacts and mitigating the risk of further social tension.

Moreover, we need the hotel to be returned to community use in order to benefit the local economy.

There is a growing sense that the current arrangements are no longer sustainable, certainly not indefinitely. I must stress that it is really important local residents, businesses and community organisations receive clear, unambiguous answers and can have confidence that the Government recognises the escalating risks and is acting accordingly.

The local community has demonstrated considerable patience over a prolonged period.

I look forward to your urgent response to the concerns of my constituents.

Yours sincerely,

Mims Davies
Member of Parliament for East Grinstead & Uckfield