

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

April 2021

*Dear Constituent*

Thank you for your email about immigration detention in County Durham.

It is only right that every case is considered individually and kept under constant review. The immigration removal estate is kept under ongoing review to ensure that the Home Office has sufficient resilience, geographical footprint and capacity for the men and women it proves necessary to detain for the purposes of removal, while providing value for money - my constituents would expect nothing less.

However, I am also very clear that the public does expect the Government to maintain a robust system and immigration detention plays a vital role in this.

It is my understanding that the Home Office has acquired the former Hassockfield Secure Training Centre in County Durham and will open it as an immigration removal centre for women by the autumn. The Hassockfield site is already a government asset. By utilising an existing secure site, the Home Office is delivering the most cost-effective option for maintaining immigration detention capacity, as part of its plans to manage the closure and return of the Morton Hall immigration removal centre to Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service.

Therefore, I understand that the Government is continuing to make progress with plans for an Immigration Removal Centre in Hassockfield. I am glad to have been reassured that the Home Office will continue to consult with local representatives and the wider community over the coming months.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me and if I can ever be any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*yours Sincerely*  
*Peter Gibson*

PETER GIBSON MP

*Member of Parliament for Darlington*

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