



PHILIP HOLLOBONE MP



# KETTERING AT WESTMINSTER



MAKING SURE THE VIEWS AND CONCERNS OF LOCAL PEOPLE ARE HEARD AT THE HEART OF THE GOVERNMENT

## Junction 10a on the A14 at Kettering



### Thursday 24 November

**Philip Hollobone MP, Kettering:** Will the Roads Minister confirm that a new junction 10a on the A14 between Cranford and Burton Latimer remains in the pipeline for road investment strategy 3 for the period 2025 to 2030 and that the proposals are being actively developed by National Highways?

**Richard Holden MP, Roads Minister:** I thank my hon. Friend for his question. I can confirm that the Government's proposed junction 10a of the A14 to the east of Kettering continues to be developed by National Highways as part of the pipeline of schemes being considered for development as part of RIS3.

# Asylum Seekers in Royal Hotel, Kettering

**Philip Hollobone MP writes:** On behalf of local people in Kettering I am 100% opposed to the housing of asylum seekers in the Royal Hotel for up to a year whilst their cases are processed. I am urging Home Office Ministers in the strongest possible terms against the use of this hotel in this way.

Together with North Northamptonshire Council I am meeting with the Immigration Minister in the Home Office on 29 November to relay the strong local objections and to urge him to discontinue the housing of asylum seekers in the hotel.



I have raised this issue on the floor of the House of Commons:

**Wednesday 23 November Philip Hollobone MP, Kettering:** I believe that the situation is now so bad and chaotic that the Immigration Minister should consider his position. On Friday, North Northamptonshire Council, Northants. police and other local agencies had an online meeting with the Home Office and Serco regarding the potential use of the 51-bed Royal Hotel in Kettering, slap bang in the middle of the town centre. Serious environmental health issues, including mould and no kitchen facilities, were raised. Northants. Police raised serious concerns about community safety and the vulnerability of the asylum seekers. The Home Office and Serco officials agreed that the hotel would not be used until those issues were properly addressed. Yesterday, the council was advised that 41 asylum seekers had been moved into the hotel on Sunday afternoon, without any notification at all. No biometric data or previous offending history has been shared with the local police. It is totally, 100% unacceptable. This is a wrong-headed decision. The local police, the local council and I have been misled, and I have no confidence at all that the Home Office, Serco or the Minister have the first clue what they are doing in relation to asylum seeker relocation.

## More Police on the Streets



Newly released figures show that 116 new police officers have been recruited in Northamptonshire as part of HM Government's pledge to put 20,000 more officers on the streets by March 2023. Next year Northamptonshire Police is on track to have 1,500 officers – the highest number ever.

Since the recruitment drive was launched in 2019, the 43 police forces across England and Wales have seen an additional 15,343 police officers recruited, putting HM Government on track to deliver on its manifesto promise with 77% of the target now met.

The latest figures also show that the police are more representative of the communities they serve. There are now more female police officers than since records began with over 50,000 women in forces across England and Wales. Of the recruits hired since April 2020, over 42% are women.

The 15,343 extra officers will support Conservative crackdown on crime. Police funding has been boosted to almost £17 billion. Police officer pay has also increased with every police officer receiving a £1,900 uplift to their salary this year.

*Royal Hotel, Kettering continued....* With Kettering the largest night-time economy in North Northamptonshire and with this part of the town centre a crime and anti-social behaviour hotspot this proposal is entirely ill conceived and it's just asking for trouble. In addition, local A&E, GP, dental and school facilities are already challenged. A lot of public money has been invested in recent years to develop and improve the Market Place and an asylum hostel in this location would impact on footfall and have a negative impact on local businesses and traders.



I despair over cross-Channel asylum seekers in small boats. In my view the answer to this problem is to have a clamp down on the French beaches and to have close-to-shore naval patrols to intercept those small boats which do launch. Asylum seekers who do cross the English Channel should be returned to France. HM Government pays the French to patrol their beaches and the French intercept 40% of attempted crossings, however to make the route unviable for the people smuggling gangs at least 75%+ of crossings need to be stopped.

In the meantime, HM Government's policy to address this issue under the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 is to process these claims in Rwanda with no right of return even for successful claimants. If this can be implemented it would act as huge deterrent to further crossings. This Rwanda plan is currently being tested by a legal case in the High Court, with HM Government defending its policy against pro-migrant groups. If HM Government wins the case flights to Rwanda can be expected to start. HM Opposition delayed and opposed the relevant legislation; were a Labour Government elected it would be shelved altogether.