

Date 13 January 2003  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 4/01567/97/GOV  
Contact No Long Text for this code  
Extn 2

HER MAJESTY'S PRISON SERVICE  
DOCUMENT SECURITY MANAGER  
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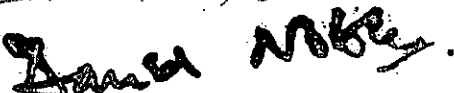
Dear sir/madam

**CONSULTATION UNDER CIRCULAR 18/1984 ADDITIONAL  
ACCOMMODATION  
H M PRISON, CHESHAM ROAD, BOVINGDON, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTS,  
HP3 0NZ**

I refer to your recent consultation under Circular 18/84 for the above proposal at the above site.

I can confirm the Council's Planning Department have no objections to the proposal.

Yours faithfully



**David Noble  
Development Control Manager**



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PLANNING DEPARTMENT DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL						
Ref.					Ack.	
D.P.		D.P.	D.C.	S.C.	Admin.	File
			11			
Received				24 DEC 1997		
Notes						

Your Ref: 4/1567/97GOV

Our Ref: E1/A1910/2/3/53

22 December 1997

Dear Sir

**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND CONSULTATION) DIRECTIONS 1992**  
**APPLICATION NO 4/1567/97 : ADDITIONAL INMATE ACCOMMODATION AT THE MOUNT PRISON, CHESHAM ROAD, BOVINGDON, HERTFORDSHIRE**

I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Environment to refer to your letter of 1 December 1997 notifying him, under the Town and Country Planning (Development Plans and Consultation) Directions 1992 and consultation under Circular 18/84 about the application by Her Majesty's Prison Service in respect of the above proposal.

The Secretary of State has now completed his consideration of the case and has decided, on the information before him, that he should not intervene. The local planning authority are therefore hereby authorised to decide the proposal as they think fit.

A copy of any permission which may be granted by the authority should be sent to the Department in accordance with paragraph 6 of the 1992 Directions.

Yours faithfully

A Moore  
Head of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Planning Branch

**4/1567/97GOV. ADDITIONAL INMATE ACCOMMODATION (CONSULTATION UNDER CIRCULAR 18/84).**

**THE MOUNT PRISON, CHESHAM ROAD, BOVINGDON.**

**APPLICANT: HER MAJESTY'S PRISON SERVICE**

[Case Officer: Paul Newton]

[Grid Reference: TL00820 03820]

**DESCRIPTION** - The Mount Prison is situated on the north-western edge of the village of Bovingdon and adjacent to Bovingdon Airfield. The proposal results from the current pressure on the Prison Service to provide additional living accommodation on a national basis. The Borough Council has been consulted on the proposals, and is able to express views on them to the Prison Service.

The submission involves the construction of an additional accommodation block to be sited in the north-eastern part of the site. The two storey rectangular building will provide living facilities for an additional 120 inmates and will have a ridge height of 11.15 m.

The external walls will be stenni clad to match the finish of the houseblock completed in 1995; the roof will be constructed of composite profiled steel sheeting with a plastisol coated finish to match adjacent development.

**POLICIES**

**National policy guidance**

PPG1; PPG2

Circulars 18/84

**Hertfordshire County Structure Plan Alterations 1990**

Policies 1, 6, 7, 47, 48 and 50

**Dacorum Borough Local Plan**

Policies 3, 7, 8 and 9

**REPRESENTATIONS**

**Bovingdon Parish Council**

No objections.

**Local Residents**

One letter of objection. Concerned the proposal will result in additional traffic on local roads and additional accommodation may lead to additional noise from inmates.

**Environment Agency**

No objection in principle provided the following conditions are imposed on any permission:

1. No soakaways shall be constructed such that they penetrate the water table, and they shall not in any event exceed 3 m in depth below existing ground level.
2. No soakawys shall be constructed in contaminated ground.

**Hertfordshire County Council**

**Environment Department**

**Highways**

No objections.

CONSIDERATIONS - The application site is situated within the Metropolitan Green Belt wherein there is a general presumption against built development.

Prison buildings do not fall under any of the categories of development deemed appropriate in a Green Belt area.

The construction of the building as proposed is therefore a departure from Green Belt policy and the Council's comments will therefore need to be referred to the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The current shortfall of inmates' accommodation is clearly a national problem.

The new block is to be sited within the existing prison complex which is surrounded by substantial security walls and fences, and will therefore not significantly extend the built up nature of the site. For these reasons an exception to Green Belt policy could be justified.

The plans as originally submitted indicated the building being sited on the existing sports pitches, facing the ex-Hadlands Photonics site in Newhouse Road. This site is presently being redeveloped with housing. The position of the inmates block as originally proposed would not relate well to this new residential development.

Amended plans have been received showing the relocation of the building. The building is now shown further into the site, lining up with the most recently constructed house block. The revised position is a significant improvement and will relate much better to the residential development currently under construction.

It is not known at this stage whether there would be a need for any further support facilities.

RECOMMENDATION - That HM Prison Service be advised that the Borough Council has no objections to the additional inmate accommodation, provided that the Secretary of State for the Environment, is satisfied that the necessary very special circumstances exist to justify inappropriate development in the Green Belt.