



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Jo Boydell
Chief Executive
Travelodge Hotels Ltd
Sleepy Hollow
Aylesbury Road
Thame Oxon OX9 3AT

25 November 2024

Dear Mrs Boydell,

Upminster Travelodge – 11 Station Road, Upminster, RM14 2SJ

It has recently been confirmed that a new 82-room hotel being constructed in my constituency will be operated by Travelodge.

I wanted to make you aware of concerns that were raised about the development by local residents, whose objections to the hotel I collated ahead of the application going to the local planning committee and Planning Inspectorate.

Among the range of concerns expressed by residents, one has persisted - that the hotel may be used as asylum accommodation once complete. Residents are particularly worried about this prospect as the Home Office had previously attempted to use a derelict former motel on the nearby A127 to house large numbers of people who had crossed the Channel on small boats.

I have always sought, as a constituency MP, to provide constituents with the facts rather than speculation given the sensitivity of these issues and the speed with which rumours circulate on local social media.

In this vein, I secured assurances from the last government that no new hotel contracts were being signed as the Home Office began to exit this type of accommodation. I have since tabled a number of parliamentary questions to new Labour Home Office ministers to ask if they have commissioned the use of hotel accommodation in Havering for the purpose of housing asylum seekers.

Until now, they have said there are no plans. But with the new government stepping up new hotels in recent weeks to accommodate larger-than-expected numbers who have crossed the Channel, questions are once again circulating on local social media about Havering's hotel stock.

I appreciate that the Upminster Travelodge is not due to open until early 2026, but in advance of that I would be most grateful if you could confirm that the hotel has not applied to the Home Office for consideration as asylum accommodation and has no future plans to once constructed. I can then share that information with the local community to address any persistent rumours with transparent, factual information.

With kind regards,

Julia

Member of Parliament for Hornchurch & Upminster

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