



Penally FAQs:

Covid-19

- **Will the asylum seekers have been Covid-19 tested and quarantined?**

Those being moved to Penally Camp will have been in the UK for a minimum of two weeks often longer. They will have completed the necessary period of self-isolation before their transfer to Penally. Only men who are fit and healthy without known complex health and care needs and no symptoms of COVID-19 will be transferred to Penally Camp.

- **If Covid-19 breaks out in the camp how will people be isolated and will the camp be "locked down"?**

This will depend on the situation and contact tracing for those in contact with someone with a confirmed COVID positive result. Measures have been put in place to ensure that the facility is as COVID safe as any other facility and limit risks of outbreak.

For example, if social contact and duration of contact was limited to those in the same sleeping quarter, it may suffice just to isolate those in that area and not the entire facility. If an outbreak were to occur, the local Health Protection Team would advise on what to do as they do for other settings (e.g. schools, care homes).

- **How is the council going to ensure that Covid 19 infection rates do not increase in the local community because of the camp?**

The responsibility for monitoring COVID infection rates rest with Public Health Wales and Pembrokeshire County Council Public Health teams. They will alert all authorities should there be a rise in the local area. Temperature checks take place for everyone entering and leaving the site. There is social distancing in place on site e.g. spacing between beds, partitions etc., and residents are encouraged to socialise within their accommodation bubble.

Management of asylum seekers in the community

- **What is the maximum capacity of the camp?**

The maximum capacity under COVID conditions in Penally Camp is 234 asylum seekers at any one time.

- **Will the asylum seekers be able to leave the camp?**

The asylum seekers are not imprisoned and so can leave the site freely. There is a signing in and signing out register. They are required to stay overnight at the camp. Welfare calls are made if residents have not returned by 10pm.

- **Is there a curfew in place?**

There is no curfew in place. There is a signing in and signing out register. Residents are required to stay overnight at the camp and welfare calls are made if they have not returned by 10pm.

- **What happens if an asylum seeker does not return to the camp?**

The asylum seekers are not detained. Clear Springs the site management company will take the necessary steps to ensure people return to the camp. If anyone unaccountably goes missing then a missing person's process is initiated.

- **Will they be permanently housed in Pembrokeshire?**

The accommodation at Penally Camp is classed by the Home Office as Initial Accommodation. From here they will be move to Dispersal Areas. Pembrokeshire is not a Dispersal Area. The asylum seekers will be moved to a Dispersal Area in another part of the UK to be allocated permanent accommodation.

- **Is it just young males being housed at the camp?**

The accommodation at Penally Camp is being used to house healthy adult males aged 18 and upwards. This temporary

emergency accommodation is not seen by the Home Office as suitable for women and children.

- **Will asylum seekers receive protection from extremist activists?**

All extremist activities will be dealt with by the relevant authorities.

- **What information are the Asylum Seekers provided on arrival?**
Upon arrival asylum seekers receive an induction from Clear Springs on expected behaviour. They are also given details on how to stay safe.

Wellbeing of asylum seekers

- **Will there be any opportunities to volunteer or offer support to the asylum seekers?**

All offers of support are being collected by Migrant Help UK for suitability and need of the camp residents. Contact will be made following those checks. All offers of support should be emailed to penally@migranthelpuk.org

- **What help and support will be given in terms of clothing, health, form filling, discovering the local area?**

All offers of support are being collected by Migrant Help UK for suitability and need of the camp residents. Contact will be made following those checks. All offers of support should be emailed to penally@migranthelpuk.org

- **Is there anything tangible people in the community can do to help? Such as making donations or writing to people/getting on zoom calls to help their English and help them integrate?**

All offers of support are being collected by Migrant Help UK for suitability and need of the camp residents. Contact will be made following those checks. All offers of support should be emailed to penally@migranthelpuk.org

- **What is being put in place to protect the mental wellbeing of the people who are seeking asylum?**

Individuals coming to Penally Camp are healthy, single, adult males. Their physical and mental health and general wellbeing has been considered. Measures have been put in place to support them through a combination of NHS care provision, charitable and spiritual support. There is a supporting clinician attending the site on a regular basis as well as Housing Officers provided by Clear Springs Ready Homes Ltd.

Community Safety

- **How are you going to maintain the safety of Pembrokeshire residents?**

Dyfed Powys Police are acutely aware of the concerns of local residents.

Dyfed Powys Police are working closely with local Public service partners and Clear Springs ready Homes Ltd to seek to try and minimise the impact upon community safety caused by the asylum accommodation centre.

We have deliberately increased Police presence in Penally and Tenby since the centre has opened in order to facilitate peaceful protest; reassure local residents and seek to reduce the fear of crime.

We have a clear community engagement strategy, which involves increased foot patrols in the area and a multi-agency cohesion group has been set up to engage with the local community and seek to address concerns raised.

- **Will there be a greater police presence?**

We have had an increased Police presence in Penally and Tenby since the centre has opened in order to facilitate peaceful protest; reassure local residents and seek to reduce the fear of crime. We plan to maintain this presence at the current time

- **There has been a greater Police presence in Penally**

Yes we have deployed significant additional resources over and above those that normally Police Penally and Tenby.

- **How will the activists be policed? Can they be moved on?**

Dyfed Powys Police has a duty to facilitate peaceful protest.

Officers policing the protests will utilise technology such as body worn video where necessary to capture evidence of criminal offences.

Where we have identified individuals within the protests who have committed criminal offences either via social media or at the protests, we have sought to take positive action to investigate those offences and prosecute where we have the evidence.

Several individuals have been arrested and are under investigation for offences committed during the protests.

Home Office decision

- **Why was there no consultation?**

The Home Office was working at pace and was unable to carry out consultation. They recognise that the local community have raised concerns and will work with the local authority and other partners to understand and address those concerns. This includes working closely with the police and other agencies in matters relating to the operation of the sites, safety and security and the handling of any protests.

- **Will it be fully funded by Central Government?**

The Home Office is funding the operation, which are designed to meet the basic needs of asylum seekers. In addition, the Home Office will pay full Local Authority business rate charges, and arrangements are in place for visiting healthcare on site.

The premises

- **How long with the asylum seekers be here for?**

The MOD has given permission to use the site for 12 months, but the use of this facility will be temporary, and will be discontinued as soon as the Home Office is able to do so.

- **Is the accommodation habitable?**

The site was until recently used by the MOD for accommodation. The accommodation is safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped in line with existing asylum accommodation standards contractual requirements.

- **Are all the needs of the asylum seekers met within the site?**

The accommodation is fully catered. Options will be provided which cater for special dietary, cultural or religious requirements and additional meals will be provided as required. All the basic needs of residents will be met on site and entertainment and pastoral support will be arranged by Clear Springs Ready Homes. Additional support items such as toiletries are being provided, along with access to laundry facilities. Televisions are available at the site and Wi-Fi will also be provided allowing for internet access. Mobile telephones are provided if asylum seekers do not have one to ensure that contact can be made.

All asylum seekers have access to a 24/7 AIRE (Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility) service provided for the Home Office by Migrant Help where they can raise any concerns regarding accommodation or support services.

- **If Penally Camp is no longer required why was the land not used to build much needed housing stock?**

Penally Camp is part of the MOD Estate. As part of the emergency COVID response they have agreed a temporary 12 months transfer to the Home Office. After this time the Home Office will return it to the MOD.

- **What steps have been taken to ensure sufficient fire services cover at Penally Camp?**

A full risk assessment has been undertaken by Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

Asylum process

- It is anticipated that each person will spend two months at the camp, for further information regarding the asylum process. For further information visit the Home Office blog <https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/07/03/factsheet-asylum-accommodation-and-applications/>

For further information on the **Welsh Government National Lockdown** protocol – 23 October-9 November follow this link:

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-firebreak-frequently-asked-questions>