

*Councillor Simon Tagg, Leader*

**Our ref:** CST/2008a

**Your ref:**

**Date:** 20 August 2025



Adam Jogee MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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By e-mail only: [Adam.Jogee.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:Adam.Jogee.mp@parliament.uk)

Dear Adam

### **Concerns Regarding the Use of Inappropriate Accommodation for Housing Asylum Seekers**

I am writing to you following the interim injunction granted to Epping Forest District Council in preventing use of hotel accommodation to house 'asylum seekers'.

Whilst Newcastle Borough does not currently have hotels occupied in this way, it is a matter of significant concern among our residents regarding the housing of asylum seekers in accommodation that is not deemed appropriate or suitable for their needs. This follows recent calls for protest in Knutton and previous concerns in areas including Madeley and Kidsgrove regarding unsuitable accommodation.

As you will be aware, the Council - alongside other local authorities across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent - has already engaged with the Home Office through the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership to be clear that - across the county - there is next to no capacity for further suitable accommodation. We have expressed our reservations clearly and consistently, particularly where properties fall short of the standards required to ensure the dignity, integration and access to necessary facilities for those seeking asylum.

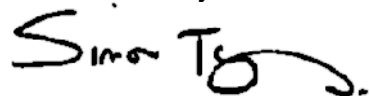
The borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme has long been a welcoming place. We take pride in our history of supporting individuals and families who choose to make their home here, regardless of their background or circumstances. Our concern is not with the principle of offering support to those in need, but with the manner in which it is being implemented - specifically, the use of accommodation that fails to recognise local pressures and risks undermining both community cohesion and the wellbeing of vulnerable individuals.

I therefore urge you to raise this issue with Ministers at the earliest opportunity. It is vital that national policy reflects both the practical realities faced by local authorities and the challenges of the high demand for similar accommodation for local people, students, contract workers and those seeking to visit the borough. We ask that you advocate for a more collaborative approach between the Home Office, its contractors, and local councils - one that ensures appropriate housing is identified and that communities are properly consulted and supported.

I look forward to your support and to working together to uphold the values that define our borough.

A copy of this letter has also been sent to David Williams MP and Leigh Ingham MP.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Tagg', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon Tagg

Leader

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