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**CAMPSFIELD HOUSE IMMIGRATION REMOVAL CENTRE –
TOO LITTLE PROGRESS**

Progress had stalled at Campsfield House, but with a new provider in place, it is hoped that our concerns can be addressed, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of an unannounced inspection of the Oxfordshire immigration removal centre.

Campsfield House's last inspection was largely complimentary. This inspection came at a time of uncertainty over Campsfield House's future and many of our previous recommendations had yet to be implemented. Shortly after the inspection, the provider – GEO Group UK Ltd – was replaced by MITIE.

Inspectors were pleased to find that:

- early days at the centre remained generally well managed;
- detainees felt safe, and there was little bullying or use of force;
- relationships between staff and detainees were satisfactory, supported by effective welfare officers;
- the number of work placements remained good and allocation arrangements had improved; and
- access to phones and email were good.

However, inspectors were concerned to find that:

- while enforced 'separation' was not overused, it was sometimes not properly authorised;
- there were a number of weaknesses in UKBA casework;
- there was a need for more interpretation services and wider use of translated notices;
- there were significant weaknesses in health care services;
- some multi-disciplinary attempts were made to manage vulnerable detainees leaving the centre, but attention needed to focus more on detainee care rather than solely on control issues; and
- education provision had not increased and was particularly unsuitable for those spending lengthy periods in the centre.

Nick Hardwick said:

"Campsfield House has faced an unsettling time as UKBA deliberated on the centre's future and on which private company should manage it. To the centre's credit, this inspection identified few signs of significant deterioration. However, we also noted that too little progress had been made in remedying areas that we had previously identified as requiring improvement and had particular concerns about the lack of progress in health care. With a new provider in place, there is now no excuse for the centre not to make expeditious progress on our recommendations."

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. A copy of the report can be found on the HM Inspectorate of Prisons website from 5 October 2011 at <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/inspectorate-reports/hmi-prisons/immigration-removal-centre-inspections/index.htm>
2. HM Inspectorate of Prisons is an independent inspectorate, inspecting places of detention to report on conditions and treatment, and promote positive outcomes for those detained and the public.
3. This unannounced short follow-up inspection was carried out from 26-18 May 2011.

4. Campsfield House is an immigration removal centre which holds adult males detained by UKBA under immigration laws.
5. Please contact Jane Parsons in HMI Prisons Press Office on 0207 035 2123 or 07880 787452 from 0915 to 1415 Monday to Friday if you would like more information or to request an interview with Nick Hardwick.