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15 October 2026

The Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

By email: ps.homesecretary@homeoffice.gov.uk

Dear Home Secretary,

Re: Immediate assurance required to stop small boat crossing route from Normandy to Hampshire and for the cost of policing to be repaid to communities

I am writing further to my previous correspondence regarding the arrival of small boats on the Hampshire coast and to express my serious concern following a further landing on Sunday 4 October 2026.

This is the third occasion where a small boat carrying individuals who have entered the UK illegally has made the crossing from Normandy directly to Hampshire. Prior to this, a large vessel (mega dinghy) arrived at Eastney, Portsmouth, on Sunday 6 September with another heading for Portsmouth, on Tuesday 22 September.

After the first incident, I wrote to you outlining why Hampshire is not a suitable landing site, why Hampshire's geography makes boat landings acutely dangerous, and I made clear the crossings will have an unsustainable impact on policing and communities.

On Tuesday 22 September the government demonstrated its capability to intercept small dinghies at sea and transport them to Dover. Despite this, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary still had to pull on a huge number of resources to prepare for another Hampshire landing due to Border Force's lack of decision making and communication with authorities.

To this date I have not heard from you or anyone in government acknowledging the legitimate concerns I have raised.

The Normandy-to-Hampshire route is no longer at risk of becoming an established route, it is now an established route because you have failed to act.

I am also concerned that the French authorities are not acting seriously in how they police these new launch sites in Normandy. It is reported that they have deployed just 43 extra police officers to the area to combat the crossings.

What conversations or contact have you had with your counterpart, the French interior minister, specifically around additional French resources being deployed to prevent this route being used for crossings?

The impact on policing and communities is grave.

- The level of criminality is increasing. At the most recent landing, there were 12 arrests including four for assaulting a police officer and one for assaulting an emergency worker.

- Those who were intent on preventing the landing blocked entry and exit routes to disrupt the emergency vehicles and coaches. Officers were met with human blockades, improvised barricades. Tack and glass were placed on the ground to immobilise support vehicles. In addition, the police marine unit had to be deployed to stop small marine vessels attempting to reach the pontoon.

- The local authority had to sweep the streets to prevent damage to cars from tacks, nails and glass. Reports have been received of bins being set on fire and some residents have reported feeling scared to leave their homes during the protest activity.

- At all three events, officers were abused, assaulted and filmed, live streamed on social media alongside assumptions about their motivations, when each and every one of those officers were deployed with an absolute commitment to upholding the law and keeping the King's Peace.

- The cost of the policing operation so far since the first small boat arrival in Hampshire is now over £800k. Just on Sunday 4 October alone, this was £300k.

- The scale of the police response at short notice is not only impacting Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, but also the wider policing service.

- The other forces providing mutual aid will continue to do so if alternative arrangements are not developed, resulting in their communities not receiving the service and protection they deserve either.

For full transparency, I have provided below the culminative costs that have been incurred by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary.

Event	Date	Est. cost (£)
Op Alidade – Eastney	06/09/2026	80,000
Portsmouth protest march day 1	12/09/2026	78,000
Portsmouth protest march day 2	13/09/2026	60,000
Op Lanyard – Gosport	22/09/2026	168,337
Op Lanyard – Basingstoke	24/09/2026	91,421
Soton protest march	03/10/2026	27,000
Op Orsen – Gosport	04/10/2026	298,585
Total		**803,343**

In my first letter dated Wednesday 16 September, I asked:

1. Will the government commit to a clear operational policy that arrivals detected heading for Hampshire are intercepted at sea and taken by Border Force vessel to Dover for disembarkation?

2. Will you confirm that there is no safe disembarkation point in Hampshire that could be used regularly?

3. What specific steps are being taken with the French authorities to close down Normandy launch points, and over what timescale?

4. What additional resource and funding will the Home Office provide to Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to meet costs already incurred and to prepare for any repeat?

5. How is the government going to ensure that landings on the Hampshire coast do not become a regular occurrence?

I am now formally requesting the reimbursement of the cost of policing to date; £803,343, and a commitment from you to reimburse all future deployments relating to small boat crossings, including protest activity.

I understand that you have met with my Chief Constable to discuss the ongoing threat of this crossing route. In order for me to fulfil my responsibilities on behalf of Hampshire and Isle of Wight residents, I would ask you to include me in further meetings with yourself and Ministers.

Yours sincerely,



Donna Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire & Isle of Wight