

CALUM MILLER MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Gordon Stewart
Chief Executive

Cllr Lesley McLean
Leader of Cherwell District Council

Cherwell District Council
Bodicote House
OX15 4AA

25th June 2026

Dear Gordon and Lesley,

I am writing to follow up on my previous letter to Gordon, dated the 5th May, regarding potential PFAS (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination associated with the former RAF Upper Heyford site, now forming part of the Heyford Park airfield in my constituency.

I have also seen Cllr Lesley McLean's letter to Emma Hardy MP, dated 24th June, raising concerns about PFAS contamination in local watercourses near Heyford Park. I welcome Cherwell District Council's decision to press the Government for urgent support, including the designation of Heyford Park and the surrounding area as a priority monitoring site for PFAS in both water and soil, and for the Environment Agency to convene a multi-agency stakeholder meeting.

As you are aware, there is considerable concern among constituents regarding the potential impact of PFAS contamination on their health. A significant number of constituents have contacted me to describe their experiences and to express concern about the possible risks posed by contamination within the development. Given the seriousness of these concerns, it is essential that they are investigated properly.

The discovery of PFAS contamination in nearby watercourses raises important questions about the extent to which contamination may be present beyond the immediate vicinity of the former fire-pit. At present, residents and I are unclear about whether the contamination is contained to that area alone, or whether contamination extends to a wider geography.

It is therefore clear that further testing is required to establish the full extent of any contamination and to assess any potential risks to health. This should include comprehensive testing of soil, and watercourses across the former RAF base, including in close proximity to residential properties. Such testing should seek not only to identify the presence of PFAS but also to determine the concentrations present and whether these pose a risk to residents.

I am therefore writing to ask that Cherwell District Council work with the Environment Agency and relevant Government departments to establish an urgent programme of soil and water testing across the existing Heyford Park development to understand the full extent of any contamination. This would sit alongside the Council's own request for Heyford Park and the surrounding area to be treated as a priority monitoring site for PFAS in both water and soil.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Calum', written in a cursive style.

Calum Miller MP