

Questions Raised on Notice by Members of the Public

(a) To the Executive

In accordance with Rule 11 of the Council Procedure Rules, notice was given by a member of the public to ask the following question:

Question 1

Question From: Kay Marsh

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor K Mills

Question: "The business address of Instro Precision Ltd is Sentinel House, Artillery Way, Discovery Park, Sandwich. This falls within the boundary of Dover District Council. Using public information available on gov.uk, the Business Rates paid by Instro Precision to DDC are estimated to be just over £114,000 for the year 23-24. Instro Precision Ltd states in its 2023 Annual report that it has a parent company Elbit Systems Limited, and their finances are consolidated. It is therefore accurate to state that Instro Precision Ltd is a subsidiary of Elbit Systems. In its Investor Relations presentation from November 2024, Elbit says it is Israel's largest defence company developing, supplying and maintaining "advanced technological solutions for the Israel Defense Forces and Israel's security services". Instro Precision plays a role in this, by - according to their own accounts - being principally engaged in ISTAR Electro Optics Solutions and Services. This is further defined as Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR).

Given that: The International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity against the Palestinian people, and that many residents within Dover District are deeply distressed and indeed affected by this unfolding catastrophe, and that Instro Precision "Target Acquisition" equipment is being directly supplied to the IDF and Israel's security services, Will Cllr Mills:

- (1) Confirm what percentage of Business Rates income from companies like Instro Precision in the District remained with Dover District Council for the financial year 23-24;
- (2) Make history today and donate this same amount of money that DDC has kept in business rates income for the year 23-24 from Instro Precision to RebuildGaza24.com or a similar

organisation supporting the needs of ordinary Palestinians such as Medecins Sans Frontiers or Medical Aid for Palestinians, as a demonstration of humanity and solidarity with all those who have been impacted by the conflict.

Question 2

Question From: Peter Jull

Question To: Portfolio Holder for Transport, Licensing and Environmental Services, Councillor J L Pout

Question: "Of Deal's three main festive period public events the Christmas lights switch on was cancelled because Storm Bert's winds were too strong to safely use ladders for the set up and the New Year's Eve Timeball Tower ball drop was scuppered by mechanical failure. Both were unavoidable. But the third; the Boxing Day dip was cancelled due to the intransigence of the Environment Agency. Their seawater test 3 months previously on a single day may have given unsatisfactory results but despite subsequent and numerous tests by Southern Water and others having found no safety issues they continue to refuse to retest and remove their red flag. Why can't the council rely on more recent tests to remove their signs at the pier and elsewhere that say Deal's beaches aren't safe?"

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.7, the Chairman will invite the questioner to put the question exactly as submitted to the Member named in the notice. If a questioner who has submitted a written question is unable to be present, they may ask the Chairman to put the question on their behalf. The Chairman may ask the question on the questioner's behalf, indicate that a written reply will be given or decide, in the absence of the questioner, that the question will not be dealt with.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.8, a questioner who has put a question in person may also put one supplementary question without notice to the member who has replied to his or her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply.

A maximum of three minutes shall be allowed for the question to be read. The period for questions by the public shall be limited so that no further question shall be put after the elapse of 15 minutes from the commencement of the first question.

Any questions which cannot be dealt with during public question time, either because of lack of time or because of the non-attendance of the member to whom it was to be put, will be dealt with by a written answer.