

Apologies for being a few minutes. Please find attached your questions and my replies.

**Have you or the Council ever supported the application for a license for oil exploration by the Bristol Port Company or any subsidiaries?**

No.

**Have you ever negotiated the prospect of the Bristol City Council receiving royalties from the proceeds of oil and gas exploitation?**

Officers entered into tentative discussions with Bristol Port Company as to the theoretical basis for any royalty share that might be agreed. However, the Mayor and councillors involved did not want the Council to take any step which enabled such oil and gas exploitation.

**Has the Council ever requested that the announcement by the Department of Energy and Climate Change of the 14th round for Oil and Gas licenses be delayed?**

No.

**Why was there no mention in Cabinet reports of the intention of the Bristol Port Company's intentions and actions to secure a Petroleum Exploitation Development Licence?**

There was discussion with Cabinet and some councillors from all parties regarding the approach from the Bristol Port Company. There was initially a possible option that a motion may be debated at Full Council on this matter. However, consulted councillors did not wish to progress with the debate or any consideration of any engagement with the licensing round, except that we use our limited ability to dissuade the Port Company from applying for a licence, recognising that this opportunity existed during the process of selling the residual freehold.

For clarity, the Port Company were equally able to apply as long leaseholders as they would be as outright freeholders. The negotiation process involved in the sale of the residual freehold provided an opportunity to influence their position.

**Was information regarding the interest of the BPC in exploiting oil and gas mentioned to Cabinet members?**

Yes.

**Can you provide assurance that Bristol Port Company or any subsidiaries has now engaged in a legally binding agreement that it will not seek a licence to exploit oil and gas?**

The Bristol Port Company has contracted with the Council that it will not seek a licence. This does not prevent other unrelated organisations applying and using national legal procedures to explore on the land or under the land.

Whilst I have replied to your direct approach, in future if you wish to ask something of the council you should come through the press office using [public.relations@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:public.relations@bristol.gov.uk).

## Robert

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