

COUNCIL MEETING – DEPUTATION/PETITION REQUEST FORM

NAME OF DEPUTATION/PETITION LEADER: Caroline Michie	
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]	
TEL: [REDACTED]	E-MAIL [REDACTED]
Name and contact details of other proposed attendees (maximum of 4 plus deputation leader): Sabby Sagall [REDACTED] Lubaba Khalid [REDACTED] Jane Deighton [REDACTED] Liz Wheatley [REDACTED]	
Does any member of the deputation have access requirements? If so, please tell us what they are: no	
Have you submitted a deputation request to the Council before? If so, please give details of the topic and the meeting to which it was submitted:	

Please summarise below the key points you wish to make at the Council meeting (continue on a separate sheet if necessary):

A petition organised by Camden Friends of Palestine, Camden PSC and CADFA and signed by over 4000 people was presented to the full Council a year ago. It stated:

*People are being killed in Gaza and the West Bank. Camden Council's pension fund invests in some companies that contribute to or profits from those deaths.
We call on Camden Council to urgently undertake a thorough and transparent audit of its pension fund investment in companies involved in any way in the going Israeli occupation of and military assault on the West Bank and Gaza with a view to divesting from them*

The Council has taken steps towards meeting the goals of the Petition and we acknowledge those steps. But we are horrified by the delay and by the number of steps that remain to be taken.

1.Delay: it was not until December 2025 that an audit was undertaken and a policy which addressed the issues – “*the Responsible Investment and Conflict Zone Exposure Policy*” – was produced. The Policy remains in draft. 11 months later- really? 11 months when an average number of people killed in Gaza each day was 100 - UNWRA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency on 01/10/2025)and people continue be attacked on the West Bank and to die in Gaza despite the “ceasefire”

2.The Audit: Camden reports that the Audit, undertaken by “RepRisk” uses a “*suite of human rights filters*” in its data search. It is searching globally, and also “*given the public interest*” in Israel/OPT exposures uses the UN's authoritative list of companies “*involved in activities related to Israeli settlements in the OPT, updated October 2025*”. We welcome this in principle but there are serious problems:

.The audit concludes that Camden's Israel/OPT linked exposure is £5.7m and its global human rights exposure of £15.9m. The Palestine Solidarity Campaign's (PSC's) detailed analysis in February 2025 of Camden's investment in companies that are complicit in Israel's grave breaches of international law concluded the total was o £104,740,332. So at the very least there is about an £80m difference between Camden's audit and PSC's audit.

Camden must:

- i. Investigate and explain the disparity
- ii. Adjust the terms of the audit so they identify all investments in companies complicit in human rights breaches in Isreal/OPT and globally are identified
- iii. Make the audit transparent – have a public document which explains the terms, search criteria methodology and outcomes in readily understandable language and in detail.

3.The Responsible Investment and Conflict Zone Exposure Policy: The objective, to focus on credible allegations of human rights violations linked to conflict globally, is welcome. However, the criteria to identify those violations is weak and flawed and will fail to protect the Camden Fund from complicit investments:

a.The Fund will only be bound by mandatory restrictions such as UK Government and UN Sanctions arms embargos or determinations of conflict and UK Government advisories. It will NOT be bound, but will reference, internationally accepted assessment of conflicts by eg UN OHCHR, OCHA, OECD and the World Bank and will only use academic and NGO research (such as Amnesty) as flags of potential issues ie the Fund will be able to invest in the many companies complicit in human

rights violations but not subject to Governmental or UN restrictions and will inevitably fall short of its stated goal.

b. The Fund will avoid exposure to controversial weapons but “*may not exclude the wider defence sector recognising its legitimate role in democratic societies*”.

Camden must:

i include criteria that maximise the exclusion of companies complicit in human rights violations

ii rectify its defence sector policy so that all companies that make weapons of war that may be used to breach human rights are excluded.

4. Extent of Israel/OPT linked exposure: The RepRisk audit using the UN OHCHR list concludes the exposure is currently £5.7m and anticipated to fall to £2.0m. Two points: 1) That is £2.0m too much. That is £2.0m invested in companies engaged in unlawful activity, in companies supporting the unlawful occupation and slaughter in the OPTs. 2) our fear is that the reduction is not a reduction in real terms. It results from changing the criteria by excluding reliance on the OHCHR

Camden must:

i Eliminate this exposure in reality taking such steps as are necessary including revising the criteria for exclusion.

5. “*Divestment only as a last Resort*”. We acknowledge that Camden has now come round to accepting that divestment might be necessary. We say that the time for last resort measures is now. Engagement has largely failed. For instance only about 4 out of 33 “*engagement outcomes*” by LAPFF (the local government joint organisation that does the engagement) in the last quarter led to any sort of improvement.

Camden must:

i. Have a policy of divesting if engagement fails to achieve its aim within, say, 3months

(see guidance notes overleaf)

Deputations and petitions

Anyone likely to be significantly¹ affected by a matter in which the authority has functions² and which significantly impacts the Borough and a significant number of the inhabitants of that area may ask that a deputation or a petition should be received by a meeting of the Council.

A deputation request should be made in writing to Democratic Services setting out the reason why the deputation should be received, by no later than 12 noon, three working days before the meeting to which it relates.

Deputations from those who are either standing for political office³, hold political office or have publicly declared that they intend to stand and are campaigning on their own behalf will not be accepted nor will they be allowed to be part of the deputation or petition party.

The person making the deputation request shall indicate what the deputation is about, the number (no more than five), names and addresses of the persons making up the deputation party, and the member of the party who will address the Council.

Requests to present petitions to Council will be considered in line with the Council's Petition Scheme.

The Mayor will decide whether the deputation or the petition is to be received or not, or whether the deputation or the petition should be heard by another body. In deciding whether or not to redirect a deputation or the petition to another body, and/or whether to accept it at all, the Mayor will amongst other things consider

- (a) Whether the matter could benefit from an in-depth analysis which could not be provided at Council
- (b) Whether it is of wide interest to the Borough
- (c) Whether the deputation or the petition has already been aired recently at another Council body
- (d) The business that the meeting needs to complete and the time any deputations would take
- (e) Who the deputation is from, taking into account that deputations are intended primarily for constituents to bring issues to the attention of the Council
- (f) That the Council does not accept deputations from serving politicians or those who are actively seeking election
- (g) Timing in relation to the electoral cycle and, in particular, whether the meeting is taking place in, or close to, the pre-election period.

A maximum of three deputations or petitions will be taken at each Council meeting with the Mayor deciding which to accept with an overall maximum time allocated to deputations and petitions of 30 minutes.

At the meeting

When called, the spokesperson or Petition Organiser may speak for three minutes. The Mayor will ensure that the remarks are relevant and that the speaker refrains from personal attacks.

Members may then ask questions of the deputation. Six minutes per deputation or petition is allowed for this, to include responses from the depute(e)s/petitioner(s).

After the deputation or petition has been heard the appropriate Cabinet Member or committee chair may respond in a speech no longer than three minutes.

No deputation or petition may appear before the Council again within the next nine months on the same or a similar subject.

Data Protection - What will we do with the information that you have provided to us?

The Council has a legal duty to allow public access to its formal meetings (except in limited circumstances where the press and public may be excluded) and we are processing the data that you have provided in order to deal with your request to make a submission to one of those meetings. We will only process the information provided to us for the purpose for which you have provided it.

¹ Note: "Significant" – when assessing whether something is significant there needs to be a balance struck between, for example, the numbers of people impacted and how impacted they personally are against what if any functions or role the Council might have in alleviating that impact. This would, as with any decision, be required to be a reasonable decision when assessing the facts in the round against the criteria. It will be accepted that while something may be significant to an individual or a few individuals, it may not be significant to the Council as a corporate body

² Note: "Functions" means activities carried out by the Council pursuant to its powers and duties

³ Note: "Political office" – a member of parliament, a member of the Greater London Authority, a councillor of any local authority or any elected political office of any nature.

Your name and address may appear in the papers of the council, committee or sub-committee meeting that you have requested a submission to. These papers are freely available on the Council's website and in hard copy from the Council's offices.

We will not transfer your personal data outside of the EU/EEA.

Full the full privacy notice, please visit <https://www.camden.gov.uk/deputations>

Please return this form by email to vicky.wemyss-cooke@camden.gov.uk / donna.alexander-morrison@camden.gov.uk or by post to:-

Vicky Wemyss-Cooke/Donna Alexander-Morrison

Democratic Services

London Borough of Camden

Town Hall

Judd Street

London, WC1H 9JE

Enquires: 020 7974 5726/5319

* Part 4 of Camden's Constitution, 'Procedure Rules and Standing Orders'