

Avon Pension Fund Committee – 26th September 2025

Statement from Eileen Kay

"The recent consultation has closed. But only one in five members were asked to take part, not the whole membership.

The previous meeting was cancelled for "lack of participation." Yet our understanding is that another meeting apparently took place the very next day - unannounced and behind closed doors. Why the secrecy? Where is the opportunity for scrutiny?

We would like to know: when will the full results of the consultation be released? It closed on Monday. At this point I imagine you should already have a clear picture of the results. We expect an open and transparent meeting to take place about this. I would have expected these would have been shared today.

Above all else, the APF must respect the results, and listen to what its members have to say. The UN has now officially declared that what is happening in Gaza is genocide. There is no ambiguity. No hiding from it. The weapons companies this Fund invests in are instrumental to that genocide. Under international law, governments — and the public bodies and institutions under them — have an obligation to do everything in their power to prevent genocide.

This is a real opportunity for the APF to take a stance. There should be no hiding. No foot-dragging. No excuses. No more PR communications. No twisting. No selective framing. People see through it. What we expect is simple: transparency, accountability, and respect for the voices of your members.

And let me be clear about what this genocide looks like Just in the past week :

- We have seen a toddler take their last breaths, with their intestines hanging out of their body.
- We have seen a tank run over a living person on the road.
- We heard Australian doctors describe performing an emergency C-section on a mother who was brought in decapitated.

And now Israel is sending into the streets of Gaza City and the north robot driven troop carriers, packed with bombs many times larger than the 2,000- pound the largest bomb Israel uses, so many times over this, causing destruction that is off the scale of comprehension to civilians.

This has nothing to do with war. Nothing to do with Hamas. This is pure genocide. And the companies you are investing members' money in are integral to carrying it out. We will be watching closely. The APF has a duty, to its members, to the law, and to humanity. We expect transparency. We expect accountability. We expect you to act, not delay, not hide, and not deflect. The eyes of your members are on you and so is history."