

Public Questions

Question 1 from Helen Sargeant

Please can you advise whether any council-managed funds, including Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) funds, are used to procure from or invest in companies that facilitate and enable Israel's grave breaches of international law.

Response

The Shropshire County Pension Fund is a non-executive function of Shropshire Council which delegates all decisions to the Pensions Committee in line with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013. Whilst the Pensions Committee reports to Shropshire Council as the Administering Authority, decisions on the running of the Pension Fund are made by the Committee.

The Shropshire County Pension Fund has direct investments in some Israeli companies though these are limited to banks and IT companies in the main. This exposure was approximately £5.5 million at 30th June 2025.

Last month, the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) issued a legal notice to all councils in England and Wales overseeing a Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) fund. It outlines that councils 'must take steps to divest from companies enabling and profiting from Israel's genocide, military occupation and apartheid against Palestinians' and the legal risks of not doing so. This includes arms companies supplying the Israeli state with weapons which may be used to commit violations of international law.

The PSC has identified £142m of investments as supporting Israel but these include a number of very large multinational firms such as Alphabet (Google), Amazon, HSBC and even MacDonalds. (Further details can be found in the public papers of the September 2025 Pensions Committee papers at paper 8 and Appendix D which covers the Funds statement on investments in Conflicted affected and high-risk areas).

The Fund believes all its investments to be undertaken in line with its fiduciary duty and in line with its statement on conflict affected and high-risk areas. However, we remain cognisant of developments and are reviewing the position with our pooling company LGPS Central and at a national level with the assistance of the Scheme Advisory Board.