SYPA Letter Template

Dear Councillor [insert name here], *List of Relevant Councillors at Bottom of this Letter*

I am writing to you in your capacity as a committee member of the South Yorkshire Pension Authority (SYPA). I am deeply concerned by Israel's ongoing violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws, and by the fact that **the SYPA risks being complicit in these crimes through its investments**.

UN experts have called for companies to cease the sale, transfer and diversion of arms, munitions, and other military equipment to Israel, or else risk complicity in "serious violations of international human rights and international humanitarian laws." These experts have explicitly stated that **investors who fail to prevent or mitigate their business relationships with complicit companies** may be directly contributing to Israel's human rights abuses, and could face "**repercussions for complicity in potential atrocity crimes**".

The South Yorkshire Pension Authority stands at risk of facing such repercussions; the SYPA has investments worth just under £199 million in companies connected with Israel's occupation, including:

- £14 million in Barclays which invests in companies arming the Israeli military
- £5 million in BAE which owns a factory in Jerusalem providing combat aircraft and helicopters to the Israeli military
- £11 million to CISCO which provides technological hubs in the Occupied Territories (OTs)
- £13.5 million to Honeywell which supplies components for bombs used by Israel in Gaza and elsewhere
- £35 million to HSBC which holds £100 million worth of shares in Caterpillar
- £14 million to Hyundai which supplies demolition equipment such as track excavators used to demolish houses in East Jerusalem and South Hebron
- £5 million to Lockheed Martin which has supplied the IDF since 1971, notably with F-16 fighter jets, Apache helicopters and hellfire missiles used in Lebanon and Gaza
- £2.5 million to Qinetiq which provides the Watchkeeper Drone on the Hermes 450 - the "workhorse" of the IDF in the OTs
- £9 million to Raytheon which produces bunker buster bombs used in Gaza
- £6 million to Safran which provides equipment to the Israeli police, such as fingerprint scanners
- £23 million to Siemens which provides traffic control on the apartheid roads in Israel
- £14 million to Sony which provides surveillance cameras in the OTs
- £4 million to Thales which works with the British MoD and Elbit Systems to produce the Watchkeeper 450 drones used to attack Gaza

Furthermore, the SYPA's investments in these companies directly contravenes its own Responsible Investment Policy. In this policy, the SYPA states that well-governed assets will present a "respect for the human rights of the communities

with which they interact". Furthermore, the Responsible Investment Policy expects all companies to abide by UN Global Compact Principles and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, both of which explicitly state that **companies must ensure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses**.

The SYPA claims that the broad principle underpinning its investments is to "do no harm". If it hopes to truly abide by this principle, and to avoid complicity in Israel's crimes against humanity, **the SYPA must act immediately**. As a committee member of the SYPA, **I urge you to take urgent measures to ensure that the SYPA ends its complicity in the crimes of the Israeli occupation**.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

[Insert name here]

Sources:

1. https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/06/states-and-companies-must-end-arms-transfers-israel-immediately-or-risk
2. https://lgpsdivest.org/lgps-investments/
3. https://www.sypensions.org.uk/Investments/Responsible-investment/Responsible-investment-policies

Councillors on the SYPA

Councillor	Area
Councillor Jayne Dunn (Chair) Jayne.dunn@councillors.sheffield.gov.uk	Sheffield Labour Southey
Councillor Donna Sutton (Vice-Chair) Doona.sutton@rotherham.gov.uk	Rotherham Labour Maltby East
Councillor John Mounsey John.mounsey@doncaster.gov.uk	Doncaster Labour Adwick and Carcroft
Councillor James Church James.church@doncaster.gov.uk	Doncaster Labour Bentley

Councillor Roy Bowser cllrroybowser@barnsley.gov.uk	Barnsley Labour Worsborough
Councillor Simon Clement-Jones Simon.cj@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk	Sheffield Lib Dem Beauchief and Greenhill
Councillor Alexi Dimond Alexi.dimond@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk	Sheffield Green Gleadless Valley
Councillor David Fisher David.fisher@rotherham.gov.uk	Rotherham Conservative Sitwell
Councillor David Nevett David.nevett@doncaster.gov.uk	Doncaster Labour Edenthorpe and Kirk Sandall
Councillor Andrew Sangar Andrew.sangar@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk	Sheffield Lib Dem Fulwood
Councillor Craig Gamble Pugh Craig.gamblepugh@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk	Sheffield Labour East Ecclesfield
Councillor Neil Wright Cllrneilwright1@barnsley.gov.uk	Barnsley Labour St. Helen's