Do you confirm that whilst negotiating a deal for the acquisition of the Freehold of the Port Estate with the Bristol City Council you applied for a Petroleum Exploitation Development Licence?

Reply: The Bristol Port Company first started discussions about three PEDL applications covering Port land before formal negotiations over the freehold purchase started with Bristol City Council.

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

Reply: When negotiations about the freehold became serious with Bristol City Council, we told it that we had applied for PEDLs. The Council’s reaction was negative and we therefore proposed to the Council that, should any hydrocarbons exist below the port, we would share the benefit with the Council.

When did you stop pursuing the PEDL and for what reason? Did you retrieve your application or was it declined?

Reply: In spite of our proposal to share any benefit the Council’s reaction was still negative so, in order to keep the freehold negotiations alive, we agreed to withdraw our PEDL applications.

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

Reply: The Bristol Port Company has agreed with Bristol City Council that it would not seek a licence to exploit oil and gas on Port land.
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