

From: Cllr-Gordon Cowan
Sent: 08 July 2025 09:36
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Council Questions

Hi [REDACTED]

Is it possible you could give me a call when you have a minute please just want to talk to you about port health and have a quick update on what we were getting from government to the amount we get now.

Regards

Gordon
Cllr Gordon Cowan
Portfolio FOR Transport, licensing, and Environmental Services

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 7, 2025 9:49:33 PM
To: Cllr-Gordon Cowan
Subject: Re: Council Questions
Your welcome!



[REDACTED]
Head of Port Health & Public Protection
Dover District Council
Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park,
Whitfield, Dover CT16 3PJ
Web: <http://dover.gov.uk/>

From: Cllr-Gordon Cowan
Sent: 07 July 2025 21:48
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Council Questions
Thank you

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 7, 2025 7:35:37 PM
To: Cllr-Gordon Cowan
Subject: RE: Council Questions
Hello Gordon,
(POAO) Products of Animal Origin
(EFRA SC) Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs Select Committee
Many thanks,
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Head of Port Health & Public Protection
Dover District Council
Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park,
Whitfield, Dover CT16 3PJ
Web: <http://dover.gov.uk/>

From: Cllr-Gordon Cowan

Sent: 07 July 2025 15:21

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Council Questions

Hi [REDACTED]

Could you please give me the abbreviations for the following.

POAO, EFRA SC

Sorry if this sounds as though I should know.

Regards

Gordon

Cllr Gordon Cowan

Portfolio For Transport, Licensing and Environmental Services

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@DOVER.GOV.UK](mailto:[REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK)>

Sent: Thursday, July 3, 2025 6:01:40 PM

To: Cllr-Gordon Cowan <cllr-gordon.cowan@dover.gov.uk>

Cc: Cllr-Kevin Mills <Cllr-Kevin.Mills@DOVER.GOV.UK>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@DOVER.GOV.UK](mailto:[REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK)>

Subject: RE: Council Questions

Hello Gordon,

Thank you for coming back so promptly, much appreciated.

I look forward to meeting you soon.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Head of Port Health & Public Protection
Dover District Council
Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park,
Whitfield, Dover CT16 3PJ
Web: <http://dover.gov.uk/>

From: Cllr-Gordon Cowan <cllr-gordon.cowan@dover.gov.uk>

Sent: 03 July 2025 14:20

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@DOVER.GOV.UK](mailto:[REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK)>

Cc: Cllr-Kevin Mills <Cllr-Kevin.Mills@DOVER.GOV.UK>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@DOVER.GOV.UK](mailto:[REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK)>

Subject: Re: Council Questions

Hi [REDACTED]

Yes, all three answers are fine.

Thank you

Regards

Gordon

Cllr Gordon Cowan

Portfolio For Transport, Licensing and Environmental Services

From: [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>

Sent: Thursday, July 3, 2025 12:20:47 PM

To: Cllr-Gordon Cowan <cllr-gordon.cowan@dover.gov.uk>

Cc: Cllr-Kevin Mills <Cllr-Kevin.Mills@DOVER.GOV.UK>; [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>

Subject: Council Questions

Hello Gordon,

We have not met yet, but I understand you are our new Portfolio Holder (PH).

I am responsible for Environmental Services, which includes Port Health which also sits within your new remit.

As such I have answered the questions raised for you and attach them.

The process is, that the answers must be agreed by the Director ([REDACTED]) and the PH (yourself).

[REDACTED] has agreed the attached, I therefore send them to you for final sign off.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

[REDACTED] has requested that confirmations are returned by the end of the day, so if you can email me back to confirm you are happy with the answers that would be very helpful so I can get them back to her so she can meet her deadlines.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Head of Port Health & Public Protection

Dover District Council

Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park,

Whitfield, Dover CT16 3PJ

Web: <http://dover.gov.uk/>

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|---|----------|---------|--|--|---|--|
| 4 | J L Pout | G Cowan | | | <p>I recently warned that a disease outbreak is likely to be a matter of when, not if. Can you please provide the council with an update as to whether Defra have increased their woefully insufficient £3.1m offer to fund Dover's port health services, and whether DPHA has in fact received any of this funding for this financial year?</p> | <p>Defra have not at this stage increased their offer of £3.1m. DPHA have not received any of the funding offered for this financial year.</p> |
| 5 | J L Pout | G Cowan | | | <p>The recent National Audit Office report Resilience to animal diseases is very clear that "The government's current failure to meet targets for checks on live animal and animal product imports, and a possible growth in illegal imported animal products, are significant threats to biosecurity at the border" and that this government "has failed to meet its targets on sanitary and phytosanitary" (SPS) controls with only 0.2% of vehicles being checked. What impact is this having on GB biosecurity and consequently DPHA's statutory functions to prevent disease entering through the short straits?</p> | <p>NAO report findings are concerning. They have resulted in a new inquiry being open by the Public Accounts Committee into the matter of 'UK resilience to animal disease' incursion. As widely reported and recognised, the current funding position outlined by Defra, only allows DPHA to complete checks during a 20% operational window. This results in less than .02% of vehicles being checked at Dover, despite >95% of this type of trade (illegal POAO) arriving via this route. In addition, the current funding offer of £3.1m prohibits DPHA from completing illegal meat safeguarding measures, such as African Swine Fever checks at Coquelles (where no checks take place) because DPHA do not have the funds to currently complete these. EFRA SC continue to scrutinise Defra on this matter and the impact it is having on GB biosecurity and the increasing risk of disease entering via this partially unfettered border because of insufficient funding and resourcing.</p> |

| | | | | | | |
|----|---------|---------|--|--|--|--|
| 10 | M Bates | G Cowan | | | <p>Is the portfolio holder able to confirm whether sufficient funding has been secured from Defra to cover the cost of Port Health operations in the current financial year?</p> | <p>Funding offered by Defra does cover the cost to continue existing Port Health 'illegal POAO' operations in the current financial year.</p> <p>However, funding offered is not considered sufficient to control the escalating risks identified at this border. £3.1m covers the existing operational costs in this financial year, however the offer includes caveats that make appropriate delivery challenging.</p> |
|----|---------|---------|--|--|--|--|