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8th August 2024

Mr Ashraf
Via email:

Dear Mr Ashraf,

The Council's adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of anti-semitism

Thank you for your question at Rotherham Council's Cabinet meeting on the 29th July.

During the meeting I committed to coming back to you in writing regarding the Council's decision in adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

On the 4th September 2019, at a full Council meeting, a motion was considered regarding the adoption of the IHRA definition. The motion was unanimously passed and adopted by the Council. The minutes of the discussion are available online at the below link:

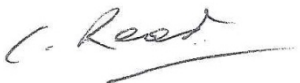
<https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=85649>

In addition, and as previously advised through the responses during Council questions, when the Council adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism it also stated its abhorrence for all forms of racism. That position remains unchanged.

My understanding is that three quarters of councils use the IHRA definition, and that this definition is recognised by the United Nations. So, whilst some people have offered a critique, it remains the most widely used definition, and it is therefore logical for this Council to continue to recognise it.

Thank you again for your question.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council