

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

**ANNUAL COUNCIL
18 MAY 2010**

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

**QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR ERNIE CLARK HILPERTON
DIVISION**

**TO COUNCILLOR JANE SCOTT
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Question 1

The 30th April edition of Private Eye carried an article in its Rotten Boroughs page entitled 'Under the counter'. This brought the matter of non-pensionable honoraria awarded by Kennet District Council into the public domain. The article named a councillor involved in the process and gave details of the sum of money awarded to various officers (over £60,000).

In the interest of 'open decision making' will this matter in future be discussed by the Audit Committee in public, or will this council still seek to use the Data Protection Act 1998 to keep the matter 'under wraps'?

Response

Cllr Clark is referred to the response to the question raised by Cllr Fogg on the same subject.

In dealing with this matter the council has been concerned to ensure that the interests of council tax payers are protected. The council has sought to be and will continue to be as open as possible within the constraints of the law. In particular, the council has a legal duty to protect the rights of individuals under data protection legislation, breach of which would expose the Council to potential litigation, including proceedings before the Information Commissioner.