



THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD MAYOR

ALDERMAN VINCENT KEAVENY

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To the Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiff of the several Livery Companies

We have all been horrified by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and by the growing humanitarian crisis it has caused. It is not just a shocking assault on the people of Ukraine, but also on the values and liberties which we cherish so much in the City of London and in the Livery.

In the midst of the horror and outrage that this conflict has provoked, I have been heartened to learn of the Livery's own response to the crisis. The swiftness and generosity of financial contributions made by Livery Companies to the DEC or other aid agencies has meant that collectively the sum donated by the Livery is already approaching seven figures. I am also aware that many individual liverymen are making personal donations, often through a matched funding arrangement with their companies. I commend wholeheartedly this determination of the Livery to support the people of Ukraine in such a significant way.

In order that I might better talk about the solidarity and resolve of the Livery on this issue, I would find it helpful if companies would be willing to disclose, in confidence, the donations that they have made. This will enable us accurately to talk about the scale of the Livery's collective giving to this cause, the aggregate figure of which is already so impressive. To this end, I have asked my team at Mansion House to collate that data, with the support of the Pan Livery Steering Group.

I am also aware that many companies will be looking at ways of providing in-kind support – whether supplies, food packages or accommodation – and it is also helpful for me to learn of your work in that respect too.

For the Corporation's part, at its meeting on Thursday 10th March the Court of Common Council formally approved a donation of £250,000 to the Disasters Emergency Committee, in addition to a £25,000 donation to UNESCO.

The Coronavirus pandemic has demonstrated in no uncertain terms the difference that the Livery Companies can make at a challenging time. I am confident that together the Livery will be able to make just as much of a positive contribution in the current distressing and appalling crisis and, indeed, is already leading by example.

Alderman Vincent Keaveny
The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor