

Appendix 32C



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CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

ELWYN SCHOFIELD
Cynghorydd • Councillor

Olgra
MARIANGLAS
Ynys Môn
LL73 8PL

☎ 01248 853306

STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

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23.2.2010

David J. Bowles C.P.F.A BSc
Interim Managing Director
Isle of Anglesey County Council
Llangefni
Anglesey LL77 7TW.

Dear Mr Bowles, Reference both your letters dated 19.2.2010 which referred to, as you put it, "Undermining the Monitoring Officer"

I find myself somewhat perplexed at their context and feel I should put my position on record as regards its contention.

Having regard to the fact that we haven't met to discuss any matter since the 28th August 2009, over 6 months ago, I'm assuming that you are referring to your version of that meeting.

The meeting was not at my instigation, it was arranged by yourself, and we met at the Council Office on Friday 28th August 2009 at 3.00pm.

There was no one else at the meeting and I have never received any note/minute or any record of our discussion for ratification, nor any indication of a "follow up" I did not perceive this as strange having regard to the fact that you stated that I should regard the meeting as private, confidential and off the record, to assist your evaluation of the situation at the Council.

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MÔN • ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL
Swyddfa'r Sir • LLANGEFNI • Ynys Môn • Anglesey
LL77 7TW

☎ (01248) 752136 ☎ (01248) 750839

☎ (01248) 752136 ☎ (01248) 750839
E-bost: elwyn.schofield@ynysmon.gov.uk Web Site: www.anglesey.gov.uk



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YNYS MÔN
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COUNTY COUNCIL

(2)

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I therefore find it disturbing reading your letter dated 19.2.2010, for I do not believe that it reflects correctly the status, nature and spirit of our meeting.

At the meeting you asked for my personal view/analysis of the situation that the Council presently found itself in.

You will recall that I left you in no doubt that my view was that the External Auditors had got it right in their Reports, that we should draw a line on the past, and move forward on that basis to address and resolve the identified weaknesses in the Governance of the Council.

It was at the end of that part of our discussion that you pursued your encouragement to have my perceptions of the past.

In fact, at that stage, as then a member of the Executive, I had expected to be questioned and guided on the way forward for the Council, however not wishing to appear uncooperative or be in denial of the Council's history, at your request, I expressed my view of the past in what I believed, and was led to believe, in an environment of privacy, confidentiality and "off the record"

The information was never presented as a complaint or accusation to be enacted upon nor have I ever written or



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verbally publicly communicated such information. I did no more than refer to the existing concerns (that ^{existing} at that time in the past). Concerns which you acknowledge in your letter had been raised by others as well, and which you must be aware of, had been raised in writing by many members with either the External Auditors or the Assembly Government. I would add that as far as I am aware, they took the form of expression of concern aimed at the offices of the proper authorities and seeking reassurances rather than being allegations.

It is therefore astonishing that you some 6 months later having not raised any observation, query, nor even request for clarification, over the intervening period, now raise and unhelpfully misconstrue what you yourself termed the "off the record" element of our initial conversation.

Should you have required any clarification or had any concern or misunderstanding at any point, I would of course have been happy to provide clarification. That you chose not to do so, but now raise this matter in a summary ^{way} as though I had originated all of these concerns; which you also in your letter acknowledge you had already heard from other members, is bewildering.



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at this point, I wish to make it clear, that the intention of this letter is not to make an accusation, complaint neither to resurrect the past nor to conduct a postmortem by rather to convey my recollection of what took place at our meeting, I feel this is needed in order to address what I regard as a wrong perception being created in paragraph 3, 4 and 5, which suggest that I made a complaint and had instigated an investigation. The concerns were expressed on your instigation to hear my views on the past I certainly made no request for an investigation and you will know have taken no part in the investigation you refer to in your letter.

I agree with your comments in your letter that making unfounded allegations has a highly corrosive effect and everyone should be aware of the possible consequences.

Finally may I remind you that for some time now I am on public record having declared that I have drawn a line on the past problems of the Council and am committed, as I have always been, to the wellbeing of the people of Anglesey

Yours sincerely
[Redacted Signature]