

# Public Document Pack



CYNGOR SIR  
YNYS MÔN  
ISLE OF ANGLESEY  
COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr Dylan Williams  
Prif Weithredwr – Chief Executive  
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RHYBUDD O GYFARFOD		NOTICE OF MEETING	
PWYLLGOR SAFONAU		STANDARDS COMMITTEE	
DYDD IAU. 22 IONAWR 2026 am 10:00 o'r gloch		THURSDAY, 22 JANUARY 2026 at 10.00 am	
YSTAFELL BWYLLGOR, SWYDDFEYDD Y CYNGOR AC YN RHITHIOL DRWY ZOOM		COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNCIL OFFICES AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM	
Swyddog Pwyllgor	Mrs Shirley Cooke 01248 752518	Committee Officer	

## Aelodau Annibynnol / Independent Members

Mr David Davies  
Mr Thomas Rhys Davies  
Mr Brace Griffiths  
Mrs Gill Murgatroyd  
Mr Trefor Owen

## Yn cynrychioli'r Cyngor Sir / Representing the County Council

Y Cynghorydd/Councillor Margaret M Roberts  
Y Cynghorydd/Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas

## Yn cynrychioli'r Cynghorau Tref/Cymuned / Representing the Town/Community Councils

Mr Iorwerth Roberts  
Mrs Margaret Thomas

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## **A G E N D A**

### **1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

To receive a declaration of interest from any Member or Officer regarding any item of business.

### **2 MINUTES OF MEETINGS (Pages 1 - 26)**

To confirm the draft minutes of the following meetings of the Standards Committee: -

- 16 May 2025 (Local Hearing)
- 12 June 2025
- 6 November 2025 (Selection Panel)
- 13 November 2025 (Selection Panel)

### **3 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT (Pages 27 - 32)**

A report by the Human Resources Learning and Development Manager.

### **4 DEMOCRATIC SERVICES UPDATE (Pages 33 - 36)**

A report by the Head of Democratic Services.

### **5 CONDUCT COMPLAINTS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES (PSOW) (Pages 37 - 44)**

A report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer in relation to: -

- (a) County Councillors, and
- (b) Town/Community Councillors  
for Quarters 1, 2 and 3

### **6 PUBLISHED FINDINGS BY THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES FOR ALL COUNCILS IN WALES (Pages 45 - 58)**

A report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Investigation Outcomes published since the last Standards Committee meeting.

### **7 DECISIONS BY THE ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR WALES (Pages 59 - 66)**

A report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on the APW's decisions since the last Standards Committee meeting.

### **8 APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS (Pages 67 - 70)**

A report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on the

applications for dispensations considered by the Standards Committee.

**9      LEGAL SERVICES MANAGER AND DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER UPDATE**  
(Pages 71 - 72)

An update report by the Legal Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer.

**10     STANDARDS COMMITTEE BRIEFING NOTES FOR MEMBERS** (Pages 73 - 74)

A report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on the briefing notes issued to members by Standards Committee.

**11     NATIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE FORUM FOR WALES** (Pages 75 - 80)

A report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on the National Standards Committee Forum for Wales meeting on 23 June 2025.

**12     THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (STANDARDS COMMITTEES AND MEMBER CONDUCT) (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2025** (Pages 81 - 84)

A report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on the Local Government (Standards Committee and Member Conduct) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2025

**13     EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC** (Pages 85 - 86)

To consider adopting the following: -

“Under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the following item on the grounds that it may involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act and in the attached Public Interest Test.”

**14     CONDUCT ISSUES** (Pages 87 - 90)

A report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer sharing details of the Decision Notices received from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

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## LOCAL HEARING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

### Minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2025

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Independent Members</b>  Mr Trefor Owen (Chair) Mr Brace Griffiths (Vice-Chair) Mr T Rhys Davies Mr John R Jones Mrs Gill Murgatroyd  <b>Representing the County Council</b>  Councillor Margaret Murley Roberts Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Legal Advisor (LB) Legal Services Manager (MY) Committee Support/Officer (SC)
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	None
<b>ALSO PRESENT:</b>	Llinos Lake (Investigating Officer, PSOW) Annie Ginwalla (Deputy Legal Adviser/Code of Conduct Team Manager, PSOW)

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chair reported that the Standards Committee meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Council's Procedure for Local Standards Hearings. All participants have been provided with a copy of this Procedure, alongside the Agenda, Pre-Hearing Summary Report and Investigating Officer's Report in advance of the meeting. These documents have also been published and made available to the press and public.

The Chair introduced each member of the Standards Committee: -

- a. Mr Trefor Owen (Chair) – Independent Member
- b. Mr Brace Griffiths (Vice-Chair) – Independent Member
- c. Mr T Rhys Davies – Independent Member
- d. Mr John R Jones – Independent Member
- e. Mrs Gill Murgatroyd – Independent Member
- f. Councillor Margaret Murley Roberts – Elected Member of the County Council
- g. Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas – Elected Member of the County Council

In accordance with Article 9 of the Council's Constitution, the community council

members of the Standards Committee shall only participate in hearings before the Standards Committee when it is discharging those functions in relation to community councils and community council members. It was explained that as that is not applicable for this matter, the Committee's community council members shall not participate in this Hearing.

Councillor Ieuan Williams, the Member who is subject of this hearing was introduced, together with Annie Ginwalla, the Deputy Legal Adviser/Code of Conduct Team Manager on behalf of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW), and Llinos Lake, the PSOW's Investigating Officer.

The following Officers of the Council were present in the meeting: -

- a. Miss Lynn Ball, Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer
- b. Mrs Mared Yaxley, Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer
- c. Mrs Shirley Cooke, Committee Support/Officer
- d. Translation Team

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies were received.

## **3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Councillor Margaret Murley Roberts declared that she is a Councillor in the same ward as Councillor Ieuan Williams, but this did not constitute a personal interest.

Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas declared that he is a member of The Independent Group, of which Councillor Ieuan Williams is the Group Leader, and this did not constitute a personal interest. He stated that he has previously sought legal advice from the Monitoring Officer, who has confirmed that he can participate in this Hearing.

## **4. QUORUM**

The Chair confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

## **5. PROCEDURE**

The Chair reported that to determine the matters at hand today, the Standards Committee would be following the procedure set out in the Council's Procedure for Local Standards Hearings.

## **6. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Chair asked Councillor Williams, the Investigating Officer and the Council's Legal Advisor whether they wished to ask the Standards Committee to exclude the press and public from all or any part of the Hearing. The Chair stated that they would need to provide their reasons for doing so, to enable the Standards Committee to consider each request.

The Legal Advisor was asked whether she would like to make any request to the Committee to exclude the press and public from all or any part of the hearing? The Legal Advisor responded that whilst the majority of Councillor Williams' comments would be made publicly, she requested that the element of his statement relating to the effect this case has had on his personal wellbeing could be discussed with the press and public excluded. She stated that, in her opinion, to share this information publicly, would break the expectation of privacy under the Data Protection Act 2018.

The Legal Advisor proposed that this would lead to a reasonable balance between three different expectations, namely: -

- a. to hold the meeting publicly
- b. to protect the privacy of the individual; and,
- c. to ensure that the Committee is aware of the full picture, before concluding.

**RESOLVED that the Standards Committee accepts the Legal Advisor's request.**

Councillor Williams was asked whether he would like to make any request to the Committee to exclude the press and public from all or any part of the hearing? He responded that he sought the Standards Committee's approval to exclude the press and the public during discussion on privacy elements.

**RESOLVED that the Standards Committee accepts Councillor Williams' request.**

The Ombudsman's Investigating Officer was asked whether she would like to make any request to the Committee to exclude the press and public from all or any part of the hearing? She responded that usually, the Ombudsman supports the principle for hearings to be held in public, unless there is a valid reason for not doing so. She referred to the Legal Advisor and Councillor Williams' comments, and stated that she did not object to them under the circumstances.

**RESOLVED that the Standards Committee accepts the Investigating Officer's request.**

## **7. ALLEGATION OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **(a) PRESENTATION OF PRE-HEARING SUMMARY REPORT**

The Legal Advisor presented her Pre-Hearing Summary Report. She stated that Councillor Ieuan Williams reported himself to the PSOW after commenting in an internal meeting of the Council on 12 June 2023, "bod angen saethu pob Tory" ("all Tories should be shot").

Following an investigation by the PSOW, the Investigator concluded that the elected member had breached two paragraphs of the Code of Conduct. The matter was referred by the PSOW to the Council's Monitoring Officer, with a direction that the matter be considered by the Standards Committee.

In line with the process, an initial meeting of the Standards Committee was held on 26 February 2025, where a decision was made to proceed with conducting a hearing, to

enable the Member to make representations in respect of the findings of the investigation.

The Legal Advisor reported that the Committee, on the balance of probabilities, would decide if the Member has breached the Code of Conduct for Members or not. Following the Member's comments and Investigating Officer's representations, should the Committee decide that the Code has been breached, they will need to decide if a sanction is appropriate, and if so, what form of sanction? Also, the Committee can make recommendations to the Councillor and/or the County Council.

The Legal Advisor noted that the Investigating Officer's Report is included in Appendix 2, together with her report. She stated that her report draws specific attention to the bullet points at the bottom of pages 2-3 of the Investigating Officer's Report. The main points of the complaint have been listed in paragraph 1 of the Investigating Officer's Report, namely, "*paragraph 4(b) – [members] must show respect and consideration for others*", and "*paragraph 6(1)(a) [members] must not conduct [themselves] in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing [their] office or authority into disrepute*".

The Legal Advisor also highlighted relevant elements in the PSOW's Guidelines on the Code of Conduct in Appendix 8 of the Investigating Officer's Report. She stated that events relating to the case have been summarised in Paragraphs 11-19 of the report. Paragraphs 20–46 summarise evidence from witness statements of individuals who were present in the meeting. The Investigating Officer's findings are presented in Paragraphs 56-64, and state that the Investigator is of the opinion that Paragraphs 6(1)(a) has been breached. There was also no disagreement regarding the facts of the case, being a self-referral complaint by the Member, where it is apparent that the Code has been breached.

Following the initial decision of the Standards Committee to conduct today's hearing, the process was followed whereby the Member was asked to complete the pre-hearing forms (Appendix 3 of the report). In his response, the Member confirmed that he was not in disagreement with the facts in the Investigating Officer's Report and the Legal Advisor's Pre-Hearing Summary Report.

The Legal Advisor reported that if the Committee comes to a decision that the Code has been breached, there will be a need to decide on any sanction recommendations.

The options available to the Standards Committee are: -

- (a) That there is no need for any further steps;
- (b) Censure;
- (c) To partially suspend the member for a period up to 6 months;
- (d) To suspend the member for a period of up to 6 months.

The Legal Advisor reported that any sanction would take effect 21 days after the Member receives the written decision of the Standards Committee.

The Legal Advisor advised that prior to the Standards Committee considering the matter of sanction, Councillor Williams and the Investigating Officer would be given an opportunity to make representations, followed by any questions from each member of



the Standards Committee. The Committee would then leave the room to deliberate in private session to consider the evidence presented.

The Legal Advisor advised that the Committee consider evidence in the context of the Adjudication Panel for Wales's Guidelines, and any similar cases that have been published on the PSOW website. If the sanction includes a partial or full suspension, when will that start? Also are there any other recommendations from the Committee for the Member or the County Council?

Following the Standards Committees private session, they should return to announce their decisions and the main reasons for their decision, which will then be published.

Finally the Standards Committee would need to consider the following recommendations: -

- (a) That the Committee asks the Member to confirm that he has not conformed with the Code of Conduct.
- (b) That the Hearing is held in line with the Council's Procedure for Local Standards Hearings;
- (c) That the Committee come to a decision regarding the following: -
  - i) On the balance of probabilities, whether the Member has or has not failed to comply with the Code of Conduct, and
  - ii) If the Committee decides that the Code has been breached, is there a need for any sanction or recommendation, and if so, what should the sanction be?
  - iii) Any other recommendations.

**RESOLVED to accept the recommendations in the report.**

#### **(b) ADMISSION OF NON-COMPLIANCE**

The Chair asked Councillor Williams whether he admitted to failing to comply with the Code of Conduct? Councillor Williams accepted that he had breached the Code.

#### **(c) DETERMINATION**

The Chair addressed Councillor Williams and stated that considering his admission that he has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct in the manner described in the Investigating Officer's Report, and summarised in the Legal Advisor's Summary Report, the Standards Committee would take the Investigating Officer's Report as read.

This Committee therefore decided that Councillor Williams has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct in the manner described in the Investigating Officer's Report. The Chair explained that the Hearing would proceed directly to consider whether any action should be taken in respect of the Member's conduct.

### **8. IN THE EVENT OF A DETERMINATION THAT THE MEMBER HAS FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### **(a) CHAIR'S INDICATION OF THE ORDER OF SANCTION**

The Chair reported that considering the determination that Councillor Williams has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct in the manner detailed in the Investigating Officer's Report, this Committee was required to consider: -

- a. Whether to impose a sanction;
- b. Having due regard to the Adjudication Panel for Wales's Sanctions Guidance (where a sanction is to be imposed) what sanction to impose;
- c. When any sanction must take effect; and
- d. Any recommendation which the Standards Committee would make to the Council.

The Chair reported that the Council's Procedure for Local Standards Hearings provides four decisions that are available to this Committee, and which may be appropriate in this matter, namely:

- a. That no action is required;
- b. Censure the Member;
- c. Partial suspension of the Member for a period up to a maximum of six months or the remainder of the Member's term of office, whichever is the shorter period;
- d. Suspension of the Member for a period up to a maximum of six months or the remainder of the Member's term of office, whichever is the shorter period.

The Chair reiterated the Standards Committee's earlier agreement to exclude the press and public from the specific element of discussion on sanctions.

The Chair suggested that Councillor Williams and the Ombudsman's Investigating Officer make their representations, in the first instance, and then exclude the press and public from the meeting to hear those further representations that are to be discussed in private.

#### **(b) MEMBERS REPRESENTATIONS AS TO SANCTIONS**

Councillor Williams was asked if he would like to make any representations on sanctions at this point? He replied that he did not at this point.

#### **(c) INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPRESENTATIONS AS TO SANCTIONS**

The Ombudsman's Investigating Officer was afforded an opportunity to present the Ombudsman's representations on sanctions, which she accepted.

The Ombudsman's Investigating Officer, Llinos Lake reported that based on the case of a breach of the Code that has been accepted by the Member and highlighted by this Committee today, it was now a matter for the Committee to decide whether there should be a sanction, and if so, what type of sanction that should be.

To assist the Committee in formulating its decision, she referred to the Adjudication Panel for Wales's Guidance on sanction. She offered to send a copy of the Guidance to the Standards Committee. Paragraph 18 of the Guidance outlines the reasoning behind the sanction process: -

- (a) To provide a disciplinary response to a case where an individual member has breached the Code;
- (b) To produce a public record of the misconduct and the appropriate sanction;
- (c) To ensure that the individual or anyone else does not behave in an improper manner in future;
- (d) To promote a culture of compliance across the relevant authorities, and to foster public confidence in local democracy.

The Investigating Officer reported that, considering the Adjudication Panel for Wales's Guidance in relation to the severity of the breach of the Code, it was clear that all of the breaches being considered were not trivial. The Guidance lists factors such as the nature and number of breaches, the actual outcomes and possible implications of the breach for any individual or individuals, the wider public and/or the entire Council, and to what extent the actions of the Member have brought disgrace upon his position, or the relevant authority, or how much potential there is for them to do so.

In considering these factors, the Ombudsman suggested that a sanction was appropriate under these circumstances. Furthermore, a decision not to take any further action would be inappropriate in this case, considering the negative impact on the Member's reputation, caused by his remarks.

The Investigating Officer further explained that to assist the Committee further, it should be noted that the Ombudsman has considered the mitigating circumstances in this case. She explained that Councillor Williams had a history of good service within the Authority; his misconduct was an isolated incident and an expression of anger or frustration; his remarks were not directed at an individual nor intended to cause harm; the witnesses did not consider that Councillor Williams meant the remarks literally, and Councillor Williams took immediate corrective action.

Councillor Williams immediately apologised to those present at the meeting; he stepped down as Deputy Leader and referred himself to the Ombudsman; he has co-operated with the Ombudsman and the Standards Committee and has accepted that his comment breached the Code; he has expressed regret for making the comment and acknowledges the need to be more careful in the future when expressing his opinion.

Moving on to aggravating factors, the Investigating Officer detailed that Councillor Williams was an experienced Member, having been a member of the Council since 2008; at the time of his comment, he held a senior position within the Council, and he had also been a member of the Standards Committee during his time as a Councillor. The inflammatory and offensive nature of the comment was also said to be relevant, as well as the impact of the comment, including its extensive reporting in the media. Therefore, the attention had brought disrepute on the Local Authority.

The Investigating Officer further reported that when considering imposing a sanction on Councillor Williams, the Committee should consider Article 10 of the Human Rights Act. It was suggested that, considering that the breaches were found to be serious, any sanction would be proportionate to protect the rights of others, and Councillor Williams's Article 10 rights too. When contemplating imposing a sanction, the Ombudsman referred to the case of Heesom. This Judgement states that there needs to be a balance between accountability for breaking the rules and the need to ensure

that the public has the right to local representation, whilst maintaining public confidence in elected members in this respect.

The Investigating Officer respectfully suggested that the Council has a number of other elected members that the public could approach, if Councillor Williams received a sanction, without any prejudice arising for those individuals, should Councillor Williams be unavailable for a period.

The Investigating Officer stated that it is usual practice for the Ombudsman to share decision notices of similar cases with the Standards Committee. She confirmed that decision notices were available but were not exact comparisons and showed a variety of decisions and different sanctions being used. She offered to share those decision with the Committee, before concluding her representations on sanctions. The Chair reported that the Monitoring Officer had already shared copies of similar cases with the Committee.

Following a suggestion that the Committee receive a copy of the Heesom case, it was **RESOLVED that the Monitoring Officer provide the Committee with a copy of the report.**

**RESOLVED to exclude the press and public for Councillor Williams to speak in private session.**

Councillor Williams shared his representations in relation to the effect of the case on his personal wellbeing with the Standards Committee.

*[Once these representations had been shared, the meeting reconvened with the press and public present].*

**(d) STANDARDS COMMITTEE'S CONFIRMATION ON WHETHER IT HAS SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO COME TO A VIEW ON SANCTION**

The Chair sought confirmation from each member of the Standards Committee that they had sufficient information to enable them to reach an informed decision as to whether or not to impose a sanction, and (if appropriate) as to the form of the sanction.

**RESOLVED that the Committee has sufficient information to reach an informed decision on sanction.**

The Standards Committee retired to another room to consider in private and determine: -

- a. Whether to impose a sanction;
- b. Having due regard to the Adjudication Panel for Wales's Sanctions Guidance (where a sanction is to be imposed), what sanction to impose;
- c. When the sanction must take effect, and
- d. Any recommendation which the Standards Committee wishes to make to the Council.

*[The Standards Committee returned to the main meeting room; The Chair confirmed all present and technical matters were in hand/working].*

## 9. DETERMINATIONS AS TO SANCTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chair reported that the Standards Committee had reached a decision on each of the points they were required to determine. He confirmed that in its deliberations, the Standards Committee had given due regard to the Adjudication Panel for Wales's Sanctions Guidance, and ensured that its decision making had considered the underlying principles of:

- Fairness
- Public interest
- Proportionality
- Consistency
- Equality and impartiality; and
- Human Rights

The Standards Committee was also mindful of the purposes of sanctions when reaching its decision in this matter. As summarised in the Adjudication Panel for Wales' Sanctions Guidance, the purpose of the sanction imposed should:

- provide a disciplinary response to the Member's breach of the Code;
- place the misconduct and appropriate sanction on public record;
- deter future misconduct on the part of the individual and others;
- promote a culture of compliance across the relevant authorities;
- foster public confidence in local democracy.

Furthermore, the Standards Committee had considered the following when determining its position on sanction: -

- Assessed the seriousness of the breach and any consequences for individuals and/or the Council;
- Identified the broad type of sanction that the Committee considered most likely to be appropriate having regard to the breach;
- Considered any relevant mitigating or aggravating circumstances and how these might affect the level of sanction under consideration;
- Considered any further adjustment necessary to ensure the sanction achieved an appropriate effect in terms of fulfilling the purposes of the sanctions.

It was noted that it was also in the public interest to consider sanctions imposed by other Standards Committees for similar breaches. The Standards Committee confirmed that it had reflected on previous reported matters available through the PSOW's website when reaching its decision on sanctions.

Considering the specifics of this case as set out in the Investigating Officer's Report, in the context of the principles described above, the Standards Committee's decision was as follows: -

- A sanction should be imposed;
- The sanction that should be imposed was censure of the Member.
- The following recommendations were made to the Council: -
- Firstly, that the Chair of the Standards Committee discusses further formal support with Councillor Williams in relation to controlling emotions and managing a political role in the public eye.
- Secondly, that the Council ensures that all Members are clear about the Code of Conduct, and that it applies to private meetings as well as public meetings.

It was explained that the reasons for the above decisions would be outlined in the formal written decision that was to be provided to Councillor Williams in due course, and that would also be published by the Committee following this process. However, the principal reasons for the decisions reached today can be summarised as follows: -

The Committee believed that the seriousness of the case fell between the maximum point of no action and lower point of suspension and explained that the mitigating factors in this case were considerably higher than the aggravating factors.

The mitigating factors considered by the Committee were as follows: -

- Councillor Williams has a history of good conduct over a long period of time.
- The misconduct only occurred once.
- The Member himself had given notice of the breach.
- The Member acknowledges and is sorry for the misconduct and any consequences.
- The Member has apologised and did so early on to anybody affected by his actions.
- The Member has also participated in an attempt to try to correct the implications of the action and cooperated with the Investigating Officer and the Standards Committee.
- The Member accepts that he needs to change his conduct in the future, and he has complied with the Code following the incident.

The Chair reported that in terms of the next steps, the Council's Procedure for Local Standards Hearings would continue to be followed.

**RESOLVED: -**

- **That Councillor Williams will receive an email from the Legal Advisor confirming the decisions reached, and this will be followed up with the Committee's formal written decision notice. Councillor Williams will be provided with confirmation of the period he has to appeal the decision reached, in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Council's Procedure for Local Standards Hearings.**
- **Once the process has concluded, the formal written decision notice will be distributed and published.**

Finally, the Chair thanked all those present who had contributed to the conduct of the Hearing and concluded the meeting.

**10. CLOSE**

The meeting concluded at 1:55 pm

**MR TREFOR OWEN**  
**CHAIR**

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# **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2025**

**PRESENT:** **Independent Members**

Mr Trefor Owen (Chair)  
Mr Brace Griffiths (Vice-Chair)  
Mr T Rhys Davies  
Mr John R Jones  
Mrs Gill Murgatroyd

**Representing the County Council**

Councillor Dafydd R Thomas

**Representing Town and Community Councils**

Councillor Iorwerth Roberts (from 10:25 am)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer (MY)  
HR Learning and Development Manager (EP) (for Item 5)  
Scrutiny Manager (for Item 3)  
Assistant Human Resources Training Officer (LT) (for Item 5)  
Committee Officer (SC)

**APOLOGIES:** None

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The Chair paid tribute to Mrs Sharon Warnes, a former independent member of the Standards Committee, who sadly passed away recently. He stated that Mrs Warnes had been a member of the Standards Committee between December 2019 and January 2024 and had worked tirelessly for the Committee during this period. The Chair expressed his condolences and those of the Committee to her family.

**1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

No declaration of interest was received.

**2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

The draft minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 6 February 2025 were presented and confirmed as correct.

The Chair reported that the Committee has recently received a copy of actions undertaken on the minutes. He confirmed that the actions points have either been implemented or are in hand to be acted upon.

The draft minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Standards Committee held on 26 February 2025 were presented and confirmed as correct.

### **3. DEMOCRATIC SERVICES UPDATE**

Submitted – a report by the Head of Democratic Services on the governance work that has been undertaken by Democratic Services.

The Scrutiny Manager gave an update on the democratic improvement plan, which has been developed to address democratic matters raised by the Standards Committee in its review of member registers. The plan was shared with the Committee last year, followed by an update in February this year.

It was noted that 15 of the 20 actions included in the plan have now been completed. Of the 5 that remain, two are continuous. The three actions remaining are: -

1. To provide the option for members to complete the standing register of interests in Mod.Gov in Welsh as well as English. Following a request to the software provider, this matter was considered low priority, as Anglesey is the only authority that has made such a request. Other local authorities in Wales do not allow direct access to members to use this facility. Therefore, the Council's officers will continue to offer to input information on behalf of members to mitigate any possible issues arising.
2. To provide the option for members to complete registrations of interest forms online, as well as paper copies. It was noted that the responses have been positive, with members completing their forms on time.
3. The issue of linking webcasts to agenda items has been completed.

It was suggested that the action point to complete the standing register of interests in Mod.Gov in Welsh and English be itemised on the Standards Committee Forum agenda, to get a broader picture of the situation in other local authorities across Wales. The Chair responded that he would be happy to raise this issue in a Forum meeting in due course.

The Scrutiny Manager reported that 22 elected members have completed their annual reports for 2024/25. Members were reminded to submit their reports by 6 June 2025, for publication by the end of June.

It was noted that members need to update any registers of interests within 28 working days of any change in circumstances. There is a separate additional register that must be completed for the purpose of finalising the Council's annual accounts.

Discussion focused on quarterly updates on member training and attendances for mandatory training, which are sent to group leaders for monitoring purposes. It was noted that information on elected members' training needs has been received from two of the four group leaders through the annual conversation process.

**RESOLVED: -**

- **To note the content of the report.**
- **That the Chair raises the issue of completing the standing register of interests bilingually on the next available Agenda of the National Standards Committee Forum.**

**Action: See Resolution above**

**4. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT**

Submitted - the report of the Human Resources Learning and Development Manager (HRLDM) on the training and development provision that has been offered to elected members since the Standards Committee's last meeting.

The HRLDM reported that 55 training and development opportunities have been offered to members since April 2023. She stated that this represents the Learning and Development Team's commitment to offer a wide variety of training to members. Emphasis was placed on completing mandatory training, where positive tendencies have been recorded. The updated figures include the following number of attendees: -

Health and Safety	35/35
Data Protection	33/35
Cybersecurity	35/35

The expectation continues to be that each member should complete the mandatory training sessions as a minimum. Over the next period, the focus will be on the titles with the lower completion numbers which include Equality and Safeguarding. It was noted that corporate training sessions on Equality will be convened on 2 and 8 July 2025.

The HRLDM reported that her staff will be working closely with Democratic Services to meet the training needs that will arise from the proposed changes to the local Scrutiny arrangements.

Discussion focused on the progress made in implementing Phase 1 of the Development Plan for Group Leaders. All group leaders have completed a DiSC (personality) Profile, and where relevant, have participated in a 1:1 analysis session with an external trainer.

Arrangements are in place to proceed to Phase 2 of the process, which includes a series of four bilingual formal coaching sessions, which will start next month.

The HRLDM highlighted that a great deal of useful information is available to members on the member dashboard on Learning Pool.

Concerns were expressed that some training sessions noted in Appendix 1 of the report had zero attendances. It was noted that no specific reasons could be attributed to this.

The Chair reported that he has asked for information on those members who have not completed mandatory training, so as to discuss with the relevant group leader(s) at their meetings later in the month.

**RESOLVED that the independent members raise the issue of mandatory training with the group leaders of those members who have not completed each module.**

**Action: See Resolution above**

*(Councillor Iorwerth Roberts joined the meeting at 10:25 am)*

## **5. CONDUCT COMPLAINTS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES (PSOW)**

Submitted – the report of the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on quarterly complaints received by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) in relation to (a) County Councillors, and (b) Town and Community Councillors.

The Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer reported that two historic cases involving County Councillors were included in Enclosure 1, detailing matters referred to the PSOW during Quarter 4, 2024/25. No new matters were reported.

The PSOW had investigated the first complaint, received in August 2023, and referred the case to the Standards Committee for a local hearing, which was convened in May 2025. The second complaint against a County Councillor was received by the Ombudsman in February 2024 and is currently being investigated.

The Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer reported that two complaints were reported upon for Community Councillors during Quarter 4, 2024/25, one of which is historical and has been under investigation since January 2024. The Ombudsman has decided not to investigate the second complaint.

**RESOLVED to note the content of Enclosures 1-2.**

**Action: None**

## **6. DECISIONS BY THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES**

Submitted – a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer summarising the PSOW's published findings of Code of Conduct complaints in Wales between January and May 2025.

The Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer raised the following points from the 11 cases that have been referred to the PSOW: -

- Llansteffan and Llanybri Community Council – the member failed to disclose a personal and prejudicial interest. It was apparent to the Ombudsman in her assessment of the case that the Councillor lacked experience and training;

there was no personal benefit for the individual; no harm had been caused to others; there was no intention to use his position to disadvantage others; had the member not been present at the meeting, the conclusion would not have been different. The member had accepted his failings, even though he was no longer a member. The circumstances of the complaint, and public benefit regarding the two step threshold fed into the Ombudsman's decision in this case.

- Flintshire County Council and Saltney Town Council – the member had breached the Code by not expressing an interest when requesting sandbags in an emergency situation involving flooding. The Ombudsman considered that the Councillor had breached the Code as he had not expressed an interest. Had he done so, that might have led to a different breach of the Code, such as using his influence to get the sandbags. This was an emergency situation, and members should not rely on the outcome of this case.
- Monmouthshire County Council – as with the above case, members should not depend on its outcome, as each case turns on its own facts.
- Llanharan Community Council – similar factors were considered as per the 1<sup>st</sup> case, including the Councillor had resigned and not benefitted personally.

It was noted that members need to be careful not to depend too much on the information presented in these cases, as the full facts have not been disclosed as part of the published decision.

Discussion focused on how other authorities present the Ombudsman's case summaries? It was suggested that this question be raised in a Standards Committee Forum meeting.

**RESOLVED: -**

- **To note the content of the case summaries presented in the report.**
- **That the Chair raises the way the PSOW's Case Summaries are presented at other authorities on the next available Agenda of the National Standards Committee Forum.**

**Action: See Resolution above**

**7. DECISIONS BY THE ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR WALES (APW)**

Submitted – a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer summarising 3 decisions published by the Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW) from 1 January to 31 May 2025.

The Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer reported that in considering the case against Former Councillor Freya Bletsoe, the APW differentiated between her two roles as a Bridgend County Borough Councillor and as Town Councillor. The member received a sanction whereby she was disqualified for 21 months, but the sanction was not relevant to her role as a County Councillor. The Panel concluded that there was no evidence to suggest that the member was not undertaking that role professionally and appropriately.

An appeal was lodged by Former Councillor Gareth Baines, a former Wrexham County Borough Councillor and Chirk Town Councillor against the Standards Committee's decision. The appeal was rejected on the grounds that it had been received by the APW outside the 21 day deadline to lodge an appeal.

Councillor Steven Bletsoe, a Bridgend Town Councillor lodged an appeal against the local Standards Committee's decision to suspend him for 6 months. The APW considered that as the breaches were not the most serious type, a sanction of 6 months was considered excessive, as this was the maximum period that could be imposed. The Panel referred the matter back to the Standards Committee with a recommendation that the Councillor be suspended for 10 weeks.

**RESOLVED to note the content of the case summaries.**

**Action: None**

## **8. APPLICATION(S) FOR DISPENSATION**

No report was presented, as it was noted that no application(s) for dispensation has been received during the period since the last meeting of the Standards Committee and the date of publishing this agenda.

## **9. UPDATE ON THE NATIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE FORUM**

Submitted – the report of the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on the above.

The Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer reported that no Forum meeting has been held since the last Standards Committee in February 2025.

It was noted that the next Forum meeting will be held on 23 June 2025, and the Chair will attend. Following the meeting, the Chair will share his notes and the minutes from the meeting with the Committee in due course.

The Chair welcomed any items for him to request to be included on the agenda at a future forum meeting.

**RESOLVED to note the content of the report.**

**Acton: none**

## **10. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Submitted - a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on the above.

The Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer reported that it is a statutory requirement for the Standards Committee to prepare and publish an annual report. She stated that the draft report is incomplete and must include the Committee's assessment on the group leaders' compliance with their statutory duty in relation to

the conduct of their members. Members of the Standards Committee will meet with group leaders to discuss these matters, commencing next week. Feedback from the meetings will be included in the annual report, and any changes to the draft report will need to be agreed by the Standards Committee. The final report will be presented to full Council in September 2025.

The following minor corrections were highlighted in the electronic versions of the draft annual report: -

1. Page 66 - Foreword - It was suggested that next to the Chair's name, (August 2024) be changed to (from August 2024).
2. Page 69 - Section on "work with the area's Town and Community Councils" - paragraph - "The Committee's programme of work noted that it would conduct a review 'was' one Community Council", which should read '*with*'.
3. Page 72 - Section bulleted Newsletters. Typo in the word 'Newsletters' on 1<sup>st</sup> line.

**RESOLVED: -**

- **To approve the content of the draft annual report for 2024/25 and its enclosures, as included in Enclosure 1 to this report, subject to the minor amendments noted above.**
- **That the current draft annual report (Enclosure 1) be updated in accordance with information obtained during the process of gathering information from the group leaders; and**
- **That any changes to the annual report (Enclosure 1) be made in either an informal meeting or via correspondence with all Committee members, in accordance with the Chair's instructions, having discussed with the Monitoring Officer.**
- **To present the final annual report to full Council in September 2025.**

**Action: See Resolution above**

**11. CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING FOR THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS (T&CCs)**

Submitted – a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on the Code of Conduct training offered to Town and Community Councils in Autumn 2024.

The Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer reported that the Standards Committee arranged training on the Code of Conduct for T&CCs in Autumn 2024. This training was a mid-term refresher, as the Standards Committee had arranged similar training following the May 2022 Elections.

The Legal Service Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer reported that T&CCs were offered 4 online training events conducted by One Voice Wales, i.e. 2 Welsh and 2 English sessions. Correspondence was sent to T&CCs to draw their attention to the training, and information was shared via their quarterly Newsletter and in a

presentation to the Town and Community Council Forum held on 19 September 2024. Of the 80 spaces available, 66 Councillors registered and 48 attended the training. It was noted that 19 of the 40 T&CCs sent at least one representative to the training. This was considered encouraging compared to the previous training for attendees. It was further noted that it is beneficial for Councillors to attend training on the Code of Conduct, although it is not statutory. Failure to attend training on the Code is considered an aggravating factor, as noted in the Adjudication Panel for Wales Guidance.

Concerns were expressed that 20 T&CCs had no representatives at either the 2022 or the 2024 training events.

**RESOLVED: -**

- That the Standards Committee considered the content of the report and Enclosure 1 and the information included particularly in relation to the (a) number of attendees at the training sessions and (b) the number of Town and Community Councils that did not have any attendees at the training sessions.
- That the Chair writes to the 20 Town and Community Councils who have not had a representative at either the 2022 or 2024 training events, expressing the Committee's disappointment, and to highlight the importance of training and the benefit that can be gained from attending these sessions.

**Action: See Resolution above**

**12. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED to adopt the following: -**

**“Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during discussion on the following item on the grounds that it may involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act and in the attached Public Interest Test.”**

**13. CONDUCT ISSUES**

Submitted - the report of the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer, providing further information on a decision notice that was received by the PSOW during Quarter 4, 2024/25 in relation to a breach of the Code of Conduct by a specific Town and Community Councillor, as previously reported publicly in Item 5 on today's agenda.

The Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer reported that the PSOW considered that the breach of the Code of Conduct was not serious enough to be investigated, and not in the public interest. However, the Ombudsman advised the individual to undertake relevant training on the Code of Conduct without delay.



The Committee discussed the emphasis placed by the PSOW on the need to undertake training on the Code and considered this in light of the discussion held under Item 11 today, considering the assistance of training in educating Councillors.

**RESOLVED to note the content of the report for information.**

**Action: None**

**14. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED to adopt the following: -**

**“Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during discussion on the following item on the grounds that it may involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act and in the attached Public Interest Test.”**

**15. APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Submitted – a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on the process of appointing new independent members to the Standards Committee by its Selection Panel.

The Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer reported that one independent member’s term of office will cease in December 2025. This will require a recruitment process by the Standards Committee in Summer 2025.

The Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer reported that the Standards Committee’s views would be useful for the Selection Panel to consider whilst making its arrangements for the recruitment process. The Standards Committee’s opinion was sought on the criteria and documentation provided in Enclosures 1, 2 and 3 to the report, as part of the appointment process.

**RESOLVED that the Standards Committee considered and accepted the questions posed in italics in the report, and recommended that its views on the following matters be presented to the Selection Panel via correspondence by the Standards Committee Chair, following a discussion with the Monitoring Officer: -**

- (a) Only the statutory requirements should be requested of applicants (no additional local choice criteria), in an effort to appeal to a broad range of individuals.**
- (b) It is considered that the application form and the information provided to prospective candidates is clear and substantive.**
- (c) That the Selection Panel discusses how it can ensure the advertisement appeals to a cross section of society with the Human Resources Section.**
- (d) That the order of the interview questions be amended – proposed amendments to the numerical order and use of more open questions in**

**relation to Questions 3, 4 and 5.**

**Action: See Resolution above**

The meeting concluded at 12.35 pm

**MR TREFOR OWEN  
CHAIR**

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE SELECTION PANEL**

### **Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 6 November 2025**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Representing the County Council</b>  Councillor Margaret M Roberts (Chair)  <b>Representing the Town/Community Councils</b>  Mrs Ann Kennedy  <b>Independent Member</b>  Dr Teleri M Jones
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer (GPW) Committee Officer (SC)
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Councillor Dylan Rees

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#### **1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

No declaration of interest was received.

#### **2. MINUTES**

The draft minutes of the Selection Panel's previous meeting held on 21 October 2025 were presented and confirmed as correct.

#### **3. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** to adopt the following:-

**"Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during discussion on the following item on the grounds that it may involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act and in the attached Public Interest Test."**

#### **4. APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Submitted - a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on the interview process for shortlisted candidates to be appointed to the vacant seat of an independent member on the Standards Committee.

The Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer reported that the Selection Panel met on 21 October 2025 to draw up a shortlist of applicants for interview.

The Chair welcomed each candidate to the meeting and introduced the Panel. She gave each individual an overview of the role of an independent member on the Standards Committee and explained the appointment process.

The candidates were considered against the criteria outlined in the report, and interviews were conducted by the Panel.

As not all the candidates shortlisted for interview could attend today's meeting, the Panel discussed and agreed to convene further interviews for shortlisted candidates at a date to be agreed.

**RESOLVED that the Selection Panel reconvene to interview the candidates in question and reach a decision on the appointment of an independent member to the Standards Committee on 13 November 2025.**

The meeting concluded at 11:20 am

**COUNCILLOR MARGARET M ROBERTS  
CHAIR**

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE SELECTION PANEL**

### **Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 13 November 2025**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Representing the County Council</b>  Councillor Margaret M Roberts (Chair)  <b>Independent Member</b>  Dr Teleri M Jones
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer (GPW) Committee Officer (SC)
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Councillor Dylan Rees Mrs Ann Kennedy (Town and Community Council Representative)

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#### **1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

No declaration of interest was received.

#### **2. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** to adopt the following: -

**“Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during discussion on the following item on the grounds that it may involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act and in the attached Public Interest Test.”**

#### **3. APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Submitted - a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer on the interview process for shortlisted candidates to be appointed to the vacant seat of an independent member on the Standards Committee.

Following the Selection Panel's meeting on 21 October 2025, the Panel drew up a shortlist of applicants for interview. The applicants were considered against the criteria outlined in the report.

It was noted that the Panel held interviews for shortlisted candidates on 6 November. The Panel had agreed to reconvene and conduct interviews in today's meeting for candidates who had been unavailable to attend interviews on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Chair welcomed each candidate to the meeting and introduced the Panel. She gave the individuals an overview of the role of an independent member on the Standards Committee and explained the appointment process.

The Panel conducted interviews and deliberated to reach a decision on the appointment.

**RESOLVED: -**

- **That the Panel select one candidate to be nominated for appointment to the Standards Committee.**
- **That the Chair of the Panel present a report to full Council at the first reasonable opportunity, nominating the successful candidate (conditional upon satisfactory references).**
- **That the Chair of the Panel recommends to full Council, that the second shortlisted candidate ('first reserve') and third shortlisted candidate ('second reserve') be automatically appointed to any further casual vacancy for an independent member of the Standards Committee, if such should arise in the next twelve months (conditional upon satisfactory references and the agreement of the candidates).**

The meeting concluded at 3:45 pm

**COUNCILLOR MARGARET M ROBERTS  
CHAIR**

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
MEETING:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE:	JANUARY 2026
TITLE OF THE REPORT:	MEMBER DEVELOPMENT
REPORT BY:	LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
CONTACT OFFICER:	ELEN PRITCHARD
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

## 1. BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Standards Committee on members' training and development issues, since the report presented in June 2025 giving an overview of the provision offered to our Elected Members over the last period.

## 2. THE PLAN

As you will be aware, the set learning plan for our Elected Members has been divided into the following specific headings; **Mandatory training; General; Health and Wellbeing; On-demand and e-Learning modules**. With these specific headings in mind, we offer an update below on the training provision from April 2023 to date.

A total of 55 learning and development opportunities were offered to Elected Members by the Learning and Development Team. Full details are included in Appendix 1.

Please see the update below on the training that has been designated as mandatory (as outlined by the Democratic Services), and their corresponding attendance levels;

Code of Conduct	35/35
Health and Safety	33/35
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	34/35
Data Protection	33/35
Cybersecurity	35/35
Safeguarding	29/35

The expectation is that all Members attend these titles as a minimum and that any further training/events are available to support these key titles.

Work continues to progress on maximising the completion figures for these titles.

### **3. SAFEGUARDING TRAINING**

It is timely to update this Committee on the above area, especially with this title now exhibiting the lowest level of completion among the mandated titles expected to be completed.

Following the launch of Social Care Wales' new training framework and safeguarding standards in 2024, updates have been made to guidance in this area. It therefore follows that the safeguarding training that we share here at the Isle of Anglesey County Council must be adapted. Further information can be found on the links contained below:

[National safeguarding training, learning and... | Social Care Wales](#)

[National safeguarding training, learning and... | Social Care Wales](#)

This new framework is divided into 7 parts, comprising of Groups A – F.

Our Elected Members will be required to complete the Group A and Group F Training.

Group A corresponds to the previous safeguarding basic awareness course. This e-learning module has been created by Social Care Wales and has been agreed as a mandatory module for all members of staff at the Isle of Anglesey County Council at a recent meeting of the Corporate Management Team. Any new member of staff is required to complete the e-learning module within the first 6 months of their employment and as part of the induction process. Group A practitioners include all members of staff who join public or voluntary organisations in Wales. The training standards also apply to private sector workers, volunteers, and Elected Members of Local Authorities.

All will need to renew their learning every three years through the e-learning provision made available (This applies across all Groups).

The e-learning module is available through **Learning Pool:** [Safeguarding \(Group A\)](#) or on the Social Care Wales website [Group A Safeguarding | Social Care Cymru](#)

Group F practitioners are required to complete the e-learning module relevant to Group A as well as attend any relevant bespoke training as required. A Corporate Parenting course would be considered as relevant to Group F.



The following roles are examples of roles that need to be met by Group F requirements here at the Isle of Anglesey County Council; Elected Members, the Chief Executive and Heads of Service etc.

Please note that it is a requirement under the new regulations to revisit or renew the safeguarding training for a period of at least 6 hours, every three years.

#### **4. DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR GROUP LEADERS**

Following approval by this Committee good progress is being made on the implementation of the above Plan.

- All our Group Leaders have completed a DiSC Profile (a type of personality profile) and where applicable have undertaken a 1:1 Analysis Session with an independent trainer.
- 3/4 formal incentive sessions have been held with 3 out of 4 of the Group Leaders, arrangements are pending for the organisation of the fourth and final session for the remainder of our Group Leaders.

Please note that provision has been made to ensure that the above activities are available bilingually and to follow in the individual's language choice.

Further to this we would look at all opportunities to direct our Elected Members to the scope of provision available from the WLGA and Academi Cymru as applicable.

#### **5. COMMUNICATIONS**

The close collaboration between the Learning and Development Team and the Democratic Service and any other relevant Officers in the Authority continues to prove effective. Thus, ensuring that any plan addresses the needs of the Elected Members and continues to evolve as required.

Invitations to attend training continue to be shared through the usual arrangements via *the MemberSupport* email address, as well as invitations via direct electronic calendar appointments.

Quarterly reports are shared with the Democratic Services, which are then shared with Group Leaders. These reports will include details of mandatory training and all other training completed within that particular quarter.

#### **6. METHODS OF PROVISION**

Overall, the sessions are held as classroom sessions, the recent development to be offering some virtual sessions continues with a further option where appropriate and relevant to be recording sessions for further use. Please note, that the delivery method is dependent on the topic in question as well as which method is offered/preferred by the Training provider.

Elected Members continue to be offered the option of attending a session within a normal working day or an early evening session to ensure that the commitments of the Elected Members are considered along with increasing attendance at sessions.

In line with what was reported in February, sessions are now being held as separate Welsh and English monolingual sessions, this being so as to align with the Corporate arrangement for staff. However, this arrangement is contingent on being able to ensure healthy attendance levels for the sessions held.

## **7. TO SUMMARISE**

The plan in question continues to be an evolving one and is continuously reviewed and amended as required, e.g. following changes in Legislation; Procedures; External issues etc. This will ensure that we are able to respond to the identified needs and ensure timely provision.

## **8. RECOMMENDATION**

To note the content of the report.

**Cynnig hyfforddiant a datblygiad i Aelodau Etholedig 2023 - 2025**

**Training and Development offered to Elected Members 2023 - 2025**

Teitl y Cwrs	Mynychwyd / Attended	Gwahoddwyd / Invited	Course Title
Côd Ymddygiad	1	1	Code of Conduct
Côd Ymddygiad	2	2	Code of Conduct
Côd Ymddygiad	3	3	Code of Conduct
Cyfansoddiad y Cyngor	1	1	Council Constitution
Delio gyda'r Wasg	3	8	Dealing with the Press
Diogelu i Aelodau	6	14	Safeguarding for Members
Sesiwn Sgiliau TGCh 1-i-1	3	3	1-to-1 ICT Skills Session
Sesiwn Sgiliau TGCh 1-i-1	2	3	1-to-1 ICT Skills Session
Sesiwn Sgiliau TGCh 1-i-1	2	2	1-to-1 ICT Skills Session
Sesiwn Sgiliau TGCh 1-i-1	2	3	1-to-1 ICT Skills Session
Sesiwn Sgiliau TGCh 1-i-1	2	3	1-to-1 ICT Skills Session
Sesiwn Sgiliau TGCh 1-i-1	0	1	1-to-1 ICT Skills Session
Ymwybyddiaeth Ofalgar x2 ( <i>agored i bawb</i> )	0	35	Mindfulness Awareness x2 ( <i>open to all</i> )
Ymwybyddiaeth Menopos ( <i>agored i bawb</i> )	0	35	Menopause Awareness ( <i>open to all</i> )
Sgiliau Cadeirio	1	2	Chairing Skills
Sgiliau Cadeirio	3	3	Chairing Skills
Sgiliau Craffu Effeithiol	1	1	Principles of Effective Scrutiny
Cyflwyniad i Newid Hinsawdd	11	26	Introduction to Climate Change
Cyflwyniad i Newid Hinsawdd	4	21	Introduction to Climate Change
Cyflwyniad i Newid Hinsawdd	3	19	Introduction to Climate Change
Cyflwyniad i Newid Hinsawdd	3	12	Introduction to Climate Change
Cydraddoldeb, Amrywiaeth a Chynhwysiant	0	4	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
Diogelu Data	6	13	Data Protection
Diogelu Data	8	12	Data Protection
Ymwybyddiaeth Diogelu i Aelodau	9	15	Safeguarding Awareness for Members
Ymwybyddiaeth Diwylliannol Sipsiwn a Theithwyr	13	30	Gypsies and Travellers' Cultural Awareness
Ymwybyddiaeth Twyll a Llygredd	12	44	Fraud and Corruption
Ymwybyddiaeth Twyll a Llygredd	4	44	Fraud and Corruption
Beth mae'n ei olygu i fod yn Ynys sy'n Wybodus am Drawma?	5	11	What does it mean to be a Trauma Informed Island
	2	2	Cyber Security Video
Arweinyddiaeth Gymunedol Flaengar I Gynghorwyr	1	1	Progressive Community Leadership Training
Cydraddoldeb, Amrywiaeth a Chynhwysiant	0	4	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
Iechyd a Diogelwch i Aelodau	7	20	Health & Safety for Members

<b>Iechyd a Diogelwch i Aelodau</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Health &amp; Safety for Members</b>
<b>Gwrth-Hiliaeth</b>			<b>Anti Racism</b>
<b>Gwrth-Hiliaeth</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>Anti Racism</b>
<b>Grŵp 6: Cryfhau Arweinyddiaeth</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>Group 6: Strengthening Leadership</b>
<b>(VAWDASV)</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>(VAWDASV)</b>
<b>Rhentu Doeth Cymru</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Rent Smart Wales</b>
<b>Grŵp 6: Cryfhau Arweinyddiaeth</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Group 6: Strengthening Leadership</b>
<b>(VAWDASV)</b>			<b>(VAWDASV)</b>
<b>Cynllunio i Aelodau</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Planning for Members</b>
<b>Gwrandawiadau'r Pwyllgor Safonau ar y</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Standards Committee's Code of Conduct</b>
<b>Côd Ymddygiad</b>			<b>Hearings</b>
<b>Cynllunio - Cyfarwyddyd Erthygl 4</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Planning - Article 4 Direction</b>
<b>Iechyd a Diogelwch i Aelodau</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Health and Safety for Members</b>
<b>Diogelu Data (cwrs staff yn agored i bawb)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Data Protection (staff course open to all)</b>
<b>Cydraddoldeb, Amrywiaeth a Chynhwysiant</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (Welsh staff</b>
<b>(cwrs Cymraeg i staff, wedi agor i bawb)</b>			<b>course opened to all)</b>
<b>Cydraddoldeb, Amrywiaeth a Chynhwysiant</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (English staff</b>
<b>(cwrs Saesneg i staff, wedi agor i bawb)</b>			<b>course opened to all)</b>
<b>Seibrddiogelwch i Aelodau</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Cyber Security for Members</b>
<b>Craffu ar y Gyllideb: Edrych Ymlaen</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Budget Scrutiny: Looking Forward</b>
<b>Seibrddiogelwch i Aelodau</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Cyber Security for Members</b>
<b>Sesiwn 'Cyber Ninjas' i Gynghorwyr</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>'Cyber Ninjas' session for Councillors</b>
<b>Dangos Effaith - Gofyn y cwestiwn 'felly</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Demonstrating Impact - Asking the 'so what'</b>
<b>beth'</b>			<b>question</b>
<b>Ymwybyddiaeth o'r Iaith Gymraeg</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Welsh Language Awareness</b>
<b>Gweithdy Cyfathrebu a Chydweithio (DiSC®)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Communication and Collaboration workshop</b>
			<b>(DiSC®)</b>
<b>Gweithdy Cyfathrebu a Chydweithio (DiSC®)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Communication and Collaboration workshop</b>
			<b>(DiSC®)</b>
<b>Gweithdy Cyfathrebu a Chydweithio (DiSC®)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Communication and Collaboration workshop</b>
			<b>(DiSC®)</b>
<b>Cyflwyniad i Newid Hinsawdd (cwrs staff yn</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction to Climate Change (staff course</b>
<b>agored i bawb)</b>			<b>open to all)</b>

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
<b>Committee:</b>	Standards Committee
<b>Date:</b>	22 January 2026
<b>Title of report:</b>	Democratic Services Update
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To update the Committee on the work of the service in relation to member support and governance.
<b>Author:</b>	Dyfan Sion, Head of Democratic Services

## Background

1. This report provides an update to the Committee on the work of the democratic service in relation to governance and member support.

## Elected Member Annual Reports

2. 23 (66%) of elected member annual reports were received for 2024/25. This is lower than the 26 received for 23/24. Nevertheless, the percentage of reports received compares favourably with other councils across north Wales. It is also important to note that there is no statutory requirement for members to return a report.
3. We will begin the process of reminding members of the need to provide a report for 25/26 shortly. We will also share a template and instructions for completing the report and will follow up with regular reminder messages. The reports will need to be completed and returned by the end of May.

## Register of interests

4. Members are reminded of the need to update their registers within 28 working days of any change in circumstances.
5. The latest reminder message was sent to members on 13 January. It included instructions for updating the online register and offered the option to contact officers if further assistance is required.

## Annual development conversations and training records

6. Updates on member training are sent regularly to the relevant group leaders. This is a way of monitoring attendance in training, particularly mandatory training. Completion levels for mandatory training have improved over recent months as a result of efforts by the learning and development team and the democratic service.
7. An 'annual conversation' process is in place for group leaders and their members. This arrangement enables the group leader to discuss the development of each member and any other relevant issues such as wellbeing and training. We will share the 25/26 annual conversation template with group leaders by the end of February.
8. The content of the conversations are confidential between the group leader and the member, but we ask leaders to share any information about training needs that arise from the conversations so that it can be included in the Council's training and development plans.

## **Engagement**

9. The service consulted with elected members and lay members during the summer of 2025 about Council meeting times. Overall, members were satisfied with the arrangements. The results were discussed and a way forward was agreed at the Democratic Committee meeting in November.
10. A “call-in” session was piloted with the Health Board in November. Arrangements were made for some of the Health Board’s senior regional officers to be available to hear members’ concerns and answer questions. It was an open and informal session, and the feedback has been positive. As a result, we will arrange another session during 2026.
11. Year 6 pupils from primary schools on the Island have been invited to visit the Chamber and have question and answer sessions with members. Four schools visited the Council in 2025, and arrangements are in place to invite more schools in 2026.

## **Elections**

12. The elections team in the service is working on the statutory timetable for holding the Ynys Gybi by-election on 5 February, and preparatory work has begun for the Welsh Senedd elections in May 2026.
13. A community review of town and community council election arrangements will begin later in January. As part of the review, we will consider whether the number of electoral wards and the number of members on town and community councils

are appropriate. It is good practice to conduct a review before the 2027 local elections.

**Recommendation**

14. The Committee is asked to note the content of the report.

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CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
COMMITTEE:	Standards Committee
DATE:	22 January 2026
REPORT TITLE:	Conduct Complaints to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW)
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	To advise the Committee of the complaints which have been sent to the PSOW in relation to local (a) County Councillors and (b) Town and Community Councillors.
REPORT BY:	Lisa Lord Legal Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer (Locum) <a href="mailto:lisalord@ynysmon.llyw.cymru">lisalord@ynysmon.llyw.cymru</a>
LINK OFFICER:	Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer <a href="mailto:lbxcs@ynysmon.llyw.cymru">lbxcs@ynysmon.llyw.cymru</a>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Standards Committee is provided with an update every quarter on the complaints which have been received by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) in relation to (a) County Councillors and (b) Town / Community Councillors.

## 2. UPDATES

2.1 A copy of the report for Quarter 1 , Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 for 2025/26 in relation to County Councillors, appears at **Enclosures 1, 2 and 3**.

2.2 A copy of the report for Quarter 1 , Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 for 2025/26 in relation to Town and Community Councillors, appears at **Enclosures 4, 5 and 6**.

## 3. COUNTY COUNCILLORS

3.1 There is currently one case being investigated by the PSOW in relation to a County Councillor; it was received in February 2024.

## 4. TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

4.1 There are two ongoing matters in relation to Town and Community Councillors, both were received in quarter 3.

## 5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 For the Standards Committee members to note the contents of the **Enclosures at 1-6.**

**ENCLOSURES:**

1	Complaint report for Quarter 1 for 2025/2026 in relation to County Councillors.
2	Complaint report for Quarter 2 for 2025/2026 in relation to County Councillors
3	Complaint report for Quarter 3 for 2025/2026 in relation to County Councillors
4	Complaint report for Quarter 1 for 2025/2026 in relation to Town and Community Councillors.
5	Complaint report for Quarter 2 for 2025/2026 in relation to Town and Community Councillors.
6	Complaint report for Quarter 3 for 2025/2026 in relation to Town and Community Councillors.

**CWYNION A GYFLWYNWYD I'R OMBWDSMON – “O” – AC YMCHWILIADAU A WNAED GANDDO YNGHYLCH  
CYNGHORWYR CYNGOR SIR YNYS MÔN - DIWEDDARIAD**

**UP TO DATE COMPLAINTS TO AND INVESTIGATIONS BY THE OMBUDSMAN – “O” -REGARDING  
ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCILLORS – UPDATE**

**Chwarter 1 (Ebrill – Mehefin 2025) – 2025/2026 – Quarter 1 (April – June 2025)**

<b>Enw'r Cynghorydd</b>  <b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Enw'r Achwynydd</b>  <b>Name of Complainant</b>	<b>Cyfeirnod y Ffeil</b>  <b>File Reference</b>  (i) Un ni/Ours (ii) “O”	<b>Dyddiad y Gŵyn - “O”</b>  <b>Complaint date - “O”</b>	<b>Canlyniad Ymholiad “O” a'r dyddiad neu'r sefyllfa gyfredol</b>  <b>Result of “O” Investigation and date or the current situation</b>
<b>Cynghorydd Sir / County Councillor</b>	Aelod / Member	024922 202302251	Gohebiaeth gyntaf gan O / First correspondence received from O: 09.08.2023	O wedi anfon ei adroddiad at sylw'r Pwyllgor Safonau a chynhaliwyd gwrandawriad lleol ar 16.05.2025 / O has sent its report for the attention of the Standards Committee and a local hearing was held on 16.05.2025
<b>Cynghorydd Sir / County Councillor</b>	Aelod / Member	025515 202307670	Gohebiaeth gyntaf gan O / First correspondence received from O: 08.02.2024	O yn parhau i ymchwilio'r gŵyn / O is continuing to investigate the complaint

**CWYNION A GYFLWYNWYD I'R OMBWDSMON – “O” – AC YMCHWILIADAU A WNAED GANDDO YNGHYLCH  
CYNGHORWYR CYNGOR SIR YNYS MÔN - DIWEDDARIAD**

**UP TO DATE COMPLAINTS TO AND INVESTIGATIONS BY THE OMBUDSMAN – “O” -REGARDING  
ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCILLORS – UPDATE**

**Chwarter 2 (Gorffennaf – Medi 2025) – 2025/2026 – Quarter 2 (July – September 2025)**

<b>Enw'r Cynghorydd</b>  <b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Enw'r Achwynydd</b>  <b>Name of Complainant</b>	<b>Cyfeirnod y Ffeil</b>  <b>File Reference</b>  <b>(i) Un ni/Ours</b> <b>(ii) “O”</b>	<b>Dyddiad y Gŵyn - “O”</b>  <b>Complaint date - “O”</b>	<b>Canlyniad Ymholiad “O” a'r dyddiad neu'r sefyllfa gyfredol</b>  <b>Result of “O” Investigation and date or the current situation</b>
<b>Cynghorydd Sir / County Councillor</b>	Aelod / Member	025515 202307670	Gohebiaeth gyntaf gan O / First correspondence received from O: 08.02.2024	O yn parhau i ymchwilio'r gŵyn / O is continuing to investigate the complaint

**CWYNION A GYFLWYNWYD I'R OMBWDSMON – “O” – AC YMCHWILIADAU A WNAED GANDDO YNGHYLCH  
CYNGHORWYR CYNGOR SIR YNYS MÔN - DIWEDDARIAD**

**UP TO DATE COMPLAINTS TO AND INVESTIGATIONS BY THE OMBUDSMAN – “O” -REGARDING  
ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCILLORS – UPDATE**

**Chwarter 3 (Hydref– Rhagfyr 2025) – 2025/2026 – Quarter 2 (October – December 2025)**

<b>Enw'r Cynghorydd</b>  <b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Enw'r Achwynydd</b>  <b>Name of Complainant</b>	<b>Cyfeirnod y Ffeil</b>  <b>File Reference</b>  <b>(i) Un ni/Ours</b> <b>(ii) “O”</b>	<b>Dyddiad y Gŵyn - “O”</b>  <b>Complaint date - “O”</b>	<b>Canlyniad Ymholiad “O” a'r dyddiad neu'r sefyllfa gyfredol</b>  <b>Result of “O” Investigation and date or the current situation</b>
<b>Cynghorydd Sir / County Councillor</b>	Aelod / Member	025515 202307670	Gohebiaeth gyntaf gan O / First correspondence received from O: 08.02.2024	O yn parhau i ymchwilio'r gŵyn / O is continuing to investigate the complaint

**CWYNION A GYFLWYNWYD I'R OMBWDSMON – “O” – AC YMCHWILIADAU A WNAED GANDDO YNGHYLCH  
CYNGHORWYR CYMUNEDOL A THREF - DIWEDDARIAD**

**UP TO DATE COMPLAINTS TO AND INVESTIGATIONS BY THE OMBUDSMAN – “O” - REGARDING  
TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS – UPDATE**

**Chwarter 1 (Ebrill - Mehefin 2025) – 2025/2026 – Quarter 1 (April – June 2025)**

<b>Enw'r Cynghorydd</b>  <b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Enw'r Achwynydd</b>  <b>Name of Complainant</b>	<b>Cyfeirnod y Ffeil</b>  <b>File Reference</b>  (i) Un ni/Ours (ii) “O”	<b>Dyddiad y Gŵyn - “O”</b>  <b>Complaint date - “O”</b>	<b>Canlyniad Ymholiad “O” a'r dyddiad neu'r sefyllfa gyfredol</b>  <b>Result of “O” Investigation and date or the current situation</b>
Cynghorydd Cymuned / Community Councillor  Cyngor Cymuned A / Community Council A	Cynghorydd Cymuned / Community Councillor	025514 202307045	Gohebiaeth gyntaf gan O / First correspondence received from O: 07.02.2024	O yn parhau i ymchwilio'r gŵyn / O is continuing to investigate the complaint

**CWYNION A GYFLWYNWYD I'R OMBWDSMON – “O” – AC YMCHWILIADAU A WNAED GANDDO YNGHYLCH  
CYNGHORWYR CYMUNEDOL A THREF - DIWEDDARIAD**

**UP TO DATE COMPLAINTS TO AND INVESTIGATIONS BY THE OMBUDSMAN – “O” - REGARDING  
TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS – UPDATE**

**Chwarter 2 (Gorffennaf - Medi 2025) – 2025/2026 – Quarter 2 (July – September 2025)**

<b>Enw'r Cynghorydd</b>  <b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Enw'r Achwynydd</b>  <b>Name of Complainant</b>	<b>Cyfeirnod y Ffeil</b>  <b>File Reference</b>  <b>(i) Un ni/Ours</b> <b>(ii) “O”</b>	<b>Dyddiad y Gŵyn - “O”</b>  <b>Complaint date - “O”</b>	<b>Canlyniad Ymholiad “O” a'r dyddiad neu'r sefyllfa gyfredol</b>  <b>Result of “O” Investigation and date or the current situation</b>
Cynghorydd Cymuned / Community Councillor  Cyngor Cymuned A / Community Council A	Cynghorydd Cymuned / Community Councillor	025514 202307045	Gohebiaeth gyntaf gan O / First correspondence received from O: 07.02.2024	Penderfyniad O wedi'i dderbyn 04.08.2025 - dim tystiolaeth sy'n awgrymu torri'r Cod; nid oes angen cymryd camau pellach O decision received 04.08.2025 - no evidence suggestive of beaches of the Code; no further action is required
Cynghorydd Tref / Town Councillor  Cyngor Tref / Town Council	Aelod o'r Cyhoedd Member of the Public	27031 0202503858	Gohebiaeth gyntaf gan O / First correspondence received from O: 05.08.2025	Penderfyniad O wedi ei dderbyn 18.09.2025 - ni ddylid ymchwilio i'r Gŵyn O decision received 18.09.2025 - the Complaint should not be investigated
Cynghorydd Tref / Town Councillor  Cyngor Tref / Town Council	Cynghorydd Tref Town Councillor	27070 0202501390	Gohebiaeth gyntaf gan O / First correspondence received from O: 21.08.2025	Penderfyniad wedi ei dderbyn 18.09.2025 - ni ddylid ymchwilio i'r Gŵyn O decision received 25.09.2025 - the Complaint should not be investigated

**CWYNION A GYFLWYNWYD I'R OMBWDSMON – “O” – AC YMCHWILIADAU A WNAED GANDDO YNGHYLCH  
CYNGHORWYR CYMUNEDOL A THREF - DIWEDDARIAD**

**UP TO DATE COMPLAINTS TO AND INVESTIGATIONS BY THE OMBUDSMAN – “O” - REGARDING  
TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS – UPDATE**

**Chwarter 3 (Hydref- Rhagfyr 2025) – 2025/2026 – Quarter 3 (October - December 2025)**

<b>Enw'r Cyngorydd</b>  <b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Enw'r Achwynydd</b>  <b>Name of Complainant</b>	<b>Cyfeirnod y Ffeil</b>  <b>File Reference</b>  <b>(i) Un ni/Ours</b> <b>(ii) “O”</b>	<b>Dyddiad y Gŵyn - “O”</b>  <b>Complaint date - “O”</b>	<b>Canlyniad Ymholiad “O” a'r dyddiad neu'r sefyllfa gyfredol</b>  <b>Result of “O” Investigation and date or the current situation</b>
Cyngorydd Tref / Town Councillor Cyngor Tref / Town Council	Cyngorydd/ Councillor	27242 202507077	Gohebiaeth gyntaf gan O / First correspondence received from O: 14.11.2025	Ystyriaeth gychwynnol O yn parhau O initial consideration ongoing
Cyngorydd Tref / Town Councillor Cyngor Tref / Town Council	Aelod o'r Cyhoedd Member of the Public	202507247	Gohebiaeth gyntaf gan O / First correspondence received from O: 26.11.2025	Ystyriaeth gychwynnol O yn parhau O initial consideration ongoing
Cyngorydd Tref / Town Councillor Cyngor Tref / Town Council	Cyngorydd/ Councillor	202507944	Gohebiaeth gyntaf gan O / First correspondence received from O: 19.12.2025	Ystyriaeth gychwynnol O yn parhau O initial consideration ongoing



CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Standards Committee</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>22 January 2026</b>
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Published findings by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales for all Councils in Wales</b>
<b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:</b>	<b>To advise the Committee of all Wales findings published on its website by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales for the period between 1 June 2025 and 31 December 2025.</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Lisa Lord Legal Service Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer (Locum) <a href="mailto:lisalord@ynysmon.llyw.cymru">lisalord@ynysmon.llyw.cymru</a></b>
<b>LINK OFFICER:</b>	<b>Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer <a href="mailto:lbxcs@ynysmon.llyw.cymru">lbxcs@ynysmon.llyw.cymru</a></b>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the information published under the “Our Findings” heading on the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) website for the months of June 2025 to December 2025 in relation to Code of Conduct matters only **ENCLOSURE 1**.

## 2. QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

<b>Edition</b>	<b>Dates covered</b>	<b>Link</b>
7	April – June	<a href="#"><u>Here</u></a>
8	July – September	<a href="#"><u>Here</u></a>

## 3. ANNUAL REPORT

The PSOW published its Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2025.

The Committee’s attention is drawn to the following key points from the Annual Report.

- April 2024-March 2025 315 duly made Code of Conduct complaints were received by the PSOW – 4% less than the previous year but 36% more than in 2019-20.
- Town and community council complaints remain the largest group of our Code of Conduct complaints overall, with a 7% increase in these complaints compared to the previous year.
- The majority (56%) of complaints were about the promotion of equality and respect – almost the same proportion as the previous year.
- The PSOW investigated 49 (about 15%) of the Code of Conduct complaints that were closed in 2024/2025 – the same as the previous year.
- 15 Code of Conduct cases were referred to either the relevant Standards Committee or the Adjudication Panel for Wales.

#### 4. RECOMMENDATION

The Chair of the Standards Committee will lead a discussion on any matters of interest reported in **ENCLOSURE 1**.

#### **ENCLOSURES:**

1	A summary of the information published under the “ <u>Our Findings</u> ” heading on the <u>Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW)</u> website for the months of June 2025 to the end of December 2025 in relation to Code of Conduct matters only.
2	A summary of the PSOW’ powers in relation to Code of Conduct complaints

## ENLCOSURE 1 – SUMMARY OF POWERS

The PSOW exercises “first sift” powers under Section 69 of the Local Government Act 2000, which requires the PSOW to consider complaints that members of local authorities in Wales may have broken their code of conduct. The PSOW’s jurisdiction includes county councils and town and community councils.

Having received a complaint, the PSOW applies its threshold test to determine whether or not the complaint should be investigated. The threshold test involves the PSOW being satisfied that:

- There is evidence to suggest that the code of conduct may have been breached; and
- That the matter is sufficiently serious for it to be in the public interest for an investigation to be opened.

When an investigation is opened, the PSOW may reach one of four findings under Section 69 of the Local Government Act 2000 which are:

- (1) That there is no evidence that there has been a breach of the authority’s code of conduct;
- (2) That no action needs to be taken in respect of the matters that were subject to the investigation;
- (3) That the matter be referred to the authority’s monitoring officer for consideration by the standards committee; or
- (4) That the matter be referred to the President of the Adjudication Panel for Wales for adjudication by a tribunal (this generally happens in more serious cases).

If (3) or (4) above apply, the PSOW will then submit its report to the local standards committee or to the Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW), and it is for the committee, or a case tribunal of the APW, to conduct a hearing to consider the evidence and to make the final decision on whether or not the code of conduct has been breached and, if so, whether a penalty should be imposed, and what any penalty should be.

Standards committees have statutory authority to issue a suspension against a councillor for a period not exceeding 6 months. Standards committees have no powers of disqualification and, where there are findings of breach, will try to apply a sanction that is proportionate to the offence. This will often be a censure (public rebuke) or a recommendation of training/undertaking/mediation etc.

A case tribunal has authority to suspend a councillor for up to 12 months and to disqualify for up to 5 years.

## ENCLOSURE 2

Case details	Key facts	Key findings	learning
<p>202406856</p> <p>Gwersyllt Community Council</p> <p><a href="#">Promotion of equality and respect : Gwersyllt Community Council - Public Services Ombudsman for Wales</a></p> <p>Promotion of equality and respect</p>	<p>It was alleged that, during a Council meeting, the Member bullied and intimidated a Council employee and that his conduct put pressure upon the Employee to disclose personal information</p>	<p>No evidence of failure to comply with the code</p> <p>The evidence suggested:</p> <p>a <b>tense and robust discussion</b> between the Member and the Employee at the meeting and that the Employee disclosed personal information.</p> <p>on balance, the Member's comments or manner were not so inflammatory, disrespectful or egregious as to amount to a breach of any aspects of the Code considered.</p>	<p>Facts specific, however it is noted that robust discussion between Members and Officers is permissible under the Code.</p>
<p>202401984</p> <p>Flintshire County Council</p> <p><a href="#">Objectivity &amp; propriety : Flintshire County Council - Public Services Ombudsman for Wales</a></p>	<p>It was alleged that the Member disclosed some confidential information about the Complainant to her neighbours when he had been trying to resolve their concerns.</p>	<p>No action required</p> <p>The evidence showed:</p> <p>the Members actions were suggestive of a breach.</p> <p>the Member had given an <b>immediate and sincere apology; recognised</b> he should not have</p>	<p>An early and sincere apology and reflection will be considered positively by the Ombudsman.</p>

Objectivity & propriety		disclosed information and provided an <b>assurance</b> the same would not happen again.  The Member accepted, and reflected on, his contribution to the Complainant's distress, for which he had been <b>apologetic</b> .	
<p>202207114</p> <p>Abertillery &amp; Llanhilleth Community Council</p> <p><a href="#">Promotion of equality &amp; respect : Abertillery &amp; Llanhilleth Community Council - Public Services Ombudsman for Wales</a></p> <p>Promotion of equality &amp; respect</p>	<p>It was alleged that the Member bullied and harassed officers of the Council by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making false, unfounded and malicious complaints against the officers;</li> <li>• Making false statements in Council meetings and in emails sent and documents shared, when acting in his capacity as member;</li> <li>• Misusing his position to gain access to personal information and documents.</li> </ul> <p>It was also alleged that the Member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disclosed confidential information to Council members and to members of the public; and</li> </ul>	<p>Historically, the Council had a poor record relating to its financial management (identified by Audit Wales)</p> <p>The <b>context did not justify</b> the way the Member chose to raise his concerns, however he was entitled to raise concerns within the wide bounds of a member's right to <b>freedom of expression</b>.</p> <p>It was determined that it <b>would not in the public interest</b> to take further action considering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ no previous history of Standards issues</li> <li>▪ the passage of time since the incidents occurred,</li> <li>▪ the Member's personal circumstances</li> </ul>	Facts specific.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failed to disclose a personal and prejudicial interest in Council meetings.</li> </ul>		
202309676  Whitland Town Council  <a href="#">Promotion of equality &amp; respect : Whitland Town Council - Public Services Ombudsman for Wales</a>  Promotion of equality & respect	It was alleged that the Member, in his official capacity, attended at the Complainant's place of work and caused significant distress to the Complainant and their employers	Taking into account the Complainant's wishes and the information obtained during the investigation, including the decision taken by the Police that they were unable to progress enquiries, under Section 70 of the Local Government Act 2000, the Ombudsman decided that it was not in the public interest to continue the investigation. Therefore, the investigation was discontinued.	Fact specific.
202404604  Cardiff Council  <a href="#">Integrity : Cardiff Council - Public Services Ombudsman for Wales</a>  Integrity	It was alleged that the Member had included the names of her fellow ward councillors to a letter to the Council's licensing committee, objecting to an application from a local takeaway business to extend its opening hours, without asking them. The Complainant alleged that the Member acted dishonestly, in order to give the objection letter greater credibility.	<b>Contemporaneous evidence</b> was provided that showed the Member had discussed whether to object with her fellow councillors before sending the objection letter  No evidence of breach	Fact specific  Contemporaneous records were used in evidence to show the steps taken by the Member in submitting an objection.

<p>202403830/202402823</p> <p>Powys County Council &amp; Welshpool Town Council</p> <p><a href="#">Promotion of equality &amp; respect : Powys County Council &amp; Welshpool Town Council - Public Services Ombudsman for Wales</a></p> <p>Promotion of equality &amp; respect</p>	<p>It was alleged that, when attending a County Council event, the Member had spoken in an insulting manner about the Complainant, who was an employee of the Town Council, referring to her as lazy and saying that she was unable to carry out her job properly.</p>	<p>The PSOW found it was <b>more likely than not</b> that the Member had made a comment/s that could reasonably be interpreted as critical of the Complainant.</p> <p>It was not considered proportionate or in the public interest to take further action.</p>	<p>Facts specific.</p> <p>Although no further formal action was taken in this case, the Member was reminded of the importance of maintaining a respectful relationship between members and officers, and how comments can be interpreted.</p>
<p>202501464</p> <p>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council</p> <p><a href="#">Disclosure &amp; registration of interest : Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council - Public</a></p>	<p>The Member spoke at Planning Committee in favour of a CLPUD being granted for a change of use from a pub to a shop.</p> <p>The Member had previously been the Chair of a social club (in direct competition with the Pub) within the same area, but had been replaced as Chair in the month before the Planning Committee</p>	<p>The Member proved his <b>own interest in the Club had ended</b>.</p> <p>His wife's employment at the Club was a <b>potential personal interest</b>, but not significant enough to be prejudicial.</p> <p>The Member <b>should have declared</b> this personal interest; this was a <b>potential breach</b> of the Code.</p>	<p>Important that Members remember to consider the financial interests of others they live with, or any person with whom they have a personal association.</p> <p>It is important that Members remember to keep their Register of Interests up to date.</p>



<a href="#">Services Ombudsman for Wales</a>  Disclosure & registration of interest	<p>meeting. The Member had updated his entry in the Council's Register of Interests on 11 April to reflect that he no longer had an interest in the social club.</p> <p>The Members wife was employed as the social club secretary.</p> <p>The Complainant felt these links constituted a personal and prejudicial interest, so the Member should have declared this and followed the Code in relation to his participation in the meeting.</p>	<p>His influence was limited as he was <b>not on the Planning Committee</b>, and his speech was within his rights.</p> <p>Given the <b>minor nature of the breach</b> and no adverse impact, the Ombudsman decided <b>no further action</b> was warranted.</p>	
202310248  Denbighshire County Council  <a href="#">Promotion of equality &amp; respect : Denbighshire County Council - Public Services Ombudsman for Wales</a>	<p>It was alleged that the Member made discriminatory comments about Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities at a Council training session. In addition, it was alleged that the Member made comments of a discriminatory nature about the recruitment of women to the care sector, at a Council Committee meeting</p>	<p>The Member's comments were considered <b>political expression</b>, attracting enhanced protection under <b>Article 10 (freedom of expression)</b>.</p> <p>Evidence did <b>not show discriminatory intent</b> toward Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities; a breach finding would have been disproportionate.</p> <p>The Ombudsman did <b>not condone the conduct</b> and suggested the</p>	No action

Promotion of equality & respect		<p>Member follow through on an offer to apologise.</p> <p>For the second incident, comments were acknowledged as <b>inappropriate and potentially discriminatory</b>, with media coverage risking personal disrepute.</p> <p>The Member was <b>challenged immediately</b>, expressed remorse, apologised, and committed not to repeat such behaviour.</p> <p><b>No further action</b> was deemed proportionate or in the public interest, but a <b>formal, recorded apology</b> was recommended.</p>	
<p>202404346</p> <p>Ogmore Valley Community Council</p> <p><a href="#">Accountability &amp; openness : Ogmore Valley Community Council - Public</a></p>	<p>It was alleged that the Member had acted on behalf of the Council without its approval or consent, when advancing an application for grant funding.</p>	<p>No financial loss occurred; grant monies were <b>not released</b>, and the Council was <b>not committed</b> to any agreement.</p> <p>The Member was <b>inexperienced</b>, had <b>not received Code training</b>, and had <b>mitigating personal circumstances</b>.</p>	<p>It is important that members understand the Standing Orders and governance arrangements. Members should seek advice if in doubt about the extent of their powers.</p>

<a href="#">Services Ombudsman for Wales</a>  Accountability & openness		<p>No evidence suggested the Member <b>gained personally</b> or sought personal advantage.</p> <p>After weighing public interest factors, the Ombudsman decided <b>no further action</b> was proportionate.</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>Member should <b>familiarise himself with Standing Orders and governance arrangements.</b></p> <p>Undertake <b>Code of Conduct training.</b></p>	
202401052  Pentir Community Council  <a href="#">Promotion of equality &amp; respect : Pentir Community Council - Public Services Ombudsman for Wales</a>	It was alleged that the Member was reluctant to allow the Complainant (who is also a member of the Community Council) to engage with an external Web Design Company and stated it was “because [the Complainant was] not Welsh.”	<p>Welsh is the official language of the Council and its administration; decisions were made in line with its Welsh Language Policy.</p> <p>The Member admitted saying “because you’re not Welsh” but clarified she meant “because you’re not Welsh speaking.”</p>	Facts specific.

Promotion of equality & respect		Context showed this was a <b>clumsy slip of the tongue</b> , not with other intent.  Investigation concluded there was <b>no evidence of a breach</b> of the Code.	
202205610  Cyngor Gwynedd  <a href="#">Integrity : Cyngor Gwynedd - Public Services Ombudsman for Wales</a>  Integrity	It was alleged that the Member had breached the Code of Conduct when making comments in relation to the Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) curriculum.  It was alleged that comments were directed to cause shock and outrage, rather than to honestly inform the public, that they failed to show respect and consideration and that the Member failed to respect the Monitoring Officer's guidance.	Most of the Member's comments were within the limits of <b>freedom of expression</b> under Article 10.  One comment was <b>unacceptable</b> , and the Member admitted it lacked supporting evidence.  Timely intervention by the Chair and Monitoring Officer likely prevented a more serious breach.  The Member reflected on the matter; Ombudsman decided <b>no further action</b> was necessary.	Intervention by the Chair potentially prevented a more significant breach.  It is important that Members understand the balance in the Code of Conduct and Article 10.
202305850 202305851 202305852  Wrexham County Borough Council	The Complainant, who held a governance role within Wrexham County Council ("the Council"), alleged that 3 Council members ("the 3 Members"), all highly experienced and leaders of their	The Council's Constitution did <b>not grant Members authority to commence litigation</b> ; this power was delegated to the Monitoring Officer. Acting outside constitutional arrangements could	Unusual case

<p><a href="#">Duty to uphold the law : Wrexham County Borough Council - Public Services Ombudsman for Wales</a></p> <p>Duty to uphold the law</p>	<p>respective Political Groups, had breached the Code of Conduct (“the Code”), by jointly initiating legal proceedings in the Council’s name (known as “JR2”). JR2 sought to challenge the Court’s decision that the Council was obliged to adopt its draft Local Development Plan (“LDP”). It was also alleged that 1 of the 3 Members had used his Council email for an unofficial purpose. The investigations considered whether paragraphs 6(1)(a) (disrepute), 7(a) (using or attempting to use their position improperly) or 7(b) (misuse of the Council’s resources) of the Code had been breached.</p>	<p>be seen as bringing the Council or office into disrepute.</p> <p>Issuing JR2 did <b>not result in personal gain</b> or misuse of resources; motive was to uphold democratic decisions.</p> <p>One Member <b>unintentionally used Council email</b> for a private/political purpose.</p> <p>Later Court of Appeal ruling clarified legal position, changing public interest factors.</p> <p>Members acted on <b>legal advice</b> and sought to uphold the democratic view of the members of the council; the situation was <b>highly unusual and unprecedented</b>.</p> <p>Ombudsman concluded <b>no further action</b> was proportionate or in the public interest; email issue was minor and unintentional.</p>	
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<b>CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	
<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Standards Committee</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>22 January 2026</b>
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Decisions by the Adjudication Panel for Wales</b>
<b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:</b>	<b>To provide information about the matters considered by the Adjudication Panel for Wales and published between 1 June 2025 and December 2025</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Lisa Lord Legal Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer (Locum) lisalord@ynysmon.llyw.cymru</b>
<b>LINK OFFICER:</b>	<b>Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer lboxcs@ynysmon.llyw.cymru</b>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW) was established by the Local Government Act 2000. It has two statutory functions:

1. To form case tribunals, or interim case tribunals, to consider reports from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) following investigations by the PSOW into allegations that a member has failed to comply with their authority's code of conduct; and
2. To consider appeals from members against the decisions of their own authority's standards committee that they have breached the code of conduct (as well as deciding if permission will be given to appeal in the first instance).

This report includes decisions published by the APW during the period 1 June 2025 until December 2025. It is intended as a factual summary of the matters decided by the APW. The reported cases for the relevant period are currently available on the APW website and links to the individual cases are provided below.

It is important to note that cases are largely fact specific, however learning has been noted where appropriate.

## **2. SUMMARY OF THE RELEVANT CASES**

A summary of the relevant cases is detailed in **ENCLOSURE 1**.

## **3. RECOMMENDATION**

To note the content of the case summaries.

### **ENCLOSURE:**

1.	A summary of the cases published on the <u>Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW) website</u> for the period from 1 June 2025 – December 2025.
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## ENCLOSURE 1

### Summary of Cases before the Adjudication Panel for Wales: June 2025 – December 2025

Case Details	Key facts	Key findings /Outcome	Learning
<p><b>Name:</b> Councillor Ian Perry  <b>Reference number:</b> APW/002/2024-025/AT  <b>Relevant authority:</b> St Nicholas &amp; Bonvilston Community Council  <b>Nature of allegation:</b> Breach of paragraphs 4(b), 4(c) and 6(1)(a).  <a href="#">apw-decision-cllr-ian-perry.pdf</a></p>	<p>It was determined that the <b>Standards Committee had not explained in its decision letter how it had evaluated evidence</b> and had <b>not set out clear reasons</b> to support its decisions and as such the appeal was allowed to proceed on specific grounds.</p> <p>The Standards Committee found</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Member breached paragraph 4(b) and 4(c) of the Code</li> <li>An e-mail sent on 5 July 2021 was intended to intimidate the Clerk</li> <li>the failure to provide appropriate responses or information and his defensive tone evidenced a lack of transparency in his</li> </ul>	<p>Found no breach of paragraphs 4(b), 4(c) and 6(1)(a) of the Council's Code of Conduct.  <b>Overturning the determination of the Standards Committee</b> that the Appellant had breached above paragraphs.</p> <p>The Tribunal found</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>that the wording of the e-mail of 5 July 2025 was <b>consistent with an ongoing conversation</b> between the Appellant and the former Locum Clerk, recounting a difficult experience from the past which involved a former clerk, and an issue in relation to the former Monitoring Officer. It was not consistent with the notion of being a 'shot</li> </ul>	<p>For the avoidance of doubt, <b>the Appeal Tribunal confirmed that Regulation 9(1) of the 2001 Regulations does not include power for a Standards Committee to impose a training requirement upon a member as part of a sanction following a finding of breach of the Code.</b> The Regulation specifies the four determinations available to the Standards Committee, and ordering attendance at training is not amongst the determinations available to the Committee.</p>

	dealings with requests for information from members, amounting to a breach of paragraph 6(1)(a) of the Code.	<p>across the bows’ or a ‘veiled threat’ against an experienced and valued Clerk or an attempt to threaten, harass, bully or undermine her</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>in all the circumstances Tribunal did not consider that the Member’s ‘defensive tone’ of response, or ‘lack of transparency’ as identified in the Standards Committee reasons for its decision could reasonably be regarded as bringing the Appellant’s office or authority into disrepute in breach of Paragraph 6(1)(a) of the Code</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Name:</b> Former Councillor Andrew Edwards  <b>Reference number:</b> APW/004/2024-025/CT  <b>Relevant authority:</b> Pembrokeshire County Council  <b>Nature of allegation:</b> Breach</p>	<p>It was <b>alleged that the Member recorded a racist voice note</b> and sent it to his then partner via the “WhatsApp” messaging application and secondly, had <b>shared information relating to</b></p>	<p>Breach of paragraph 6(1)(a) of the Council’s Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The tribunal therefore found by unanimous decision that the Respondent should be <b>disqualified for 4 years</b> from being or becoming a member of</p>	<p>The tribunal was mindful of the public interest in maintaining standards in public life and the overarching purpose of the Code of Conduct <b>to maintain confidence in local democracy.</b></p>

<p>of paragraph 6(1)(a) of the Council's Code of Conduct  <b>Tribunal Decision:</b> Breach of paragraph 6(1)(a) of the Council's Code of Conduct. Disqualified for 4 years.</p> <p><a href="#">APW/004/2024-025/CT: Former Councillor Andrew Edwards   The Adjudication Panel for Wales</a></p>	<p><b>Council business alongside disrespectful comments about members of the public</b> to his then partner via WhatsApp.</p> <p>It was alleged that this conduct could reasonably be regarded as bringing the Respondent's office as Member or the Relevant Authority into disrepute and was therefore suggestive of a breach of paragraph 6(1)(a) of the Code of Conduct for Members.</p>	<p>the Relevant Authority or any other relevant authority within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2000</p>	<p>Any period of disqualification must be <b>necessary and proportionate</b>.</p> <p>One purpose of disqualification is to allow a period of <b>reflection</b> to recognise the severe impact of the behaviour and the <b>wider impact upon the role and Council</b> which could reasonably have been foreseen.</p> <p>It was considered a sanction of disqualification was fair, proportionate and in the public interest in this case, in order to underline the <b>importance of the standards regime in Wales, to promote a culture of compliance across the relevant authorities and to foster public confidence in local democracy</b>.</p> <p><b>Article 10</b> of the ECHR was noted to be a fundamental right, however it was a right which could only be claimed where it did not impact on the fundamental rights of others.</p>
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			<p>and it clearly did so in this case and impacted on the lives of other individuals, proposing as it did that their human right to freedom and equality should be determined by their race.</p> <p>The Case Tribunal concluded that the messages in question were <b>not made in a political context</b>, and in any event, were <b>so extreme and disturbing, that the protections offered to politicians by the ECHR to freely express views would not apply here.</b></p>
<p><b>Name:</b> Councillor Attridge</p> <p><b>Reference number:</b> APW/0004/2023-024/CT</p> <p><b>Relevant authority:</b> Flintshire County Council &amp; Connah's Quay Town Council</p> <p><b>Nature of allegation:</b> Breach of paragraphs 4(b), 4(c), 4(d), 5(a), 6(1)(a), 7(a), 11(2)(a) &amp; 14(1)(d)</p> <p><a href="#">apw-decision-report-bernie-attridge.pdf</a></p>	<p>The matter was referred to the APW by the PSOW. It was alleged the Member breached the Code by attempting to develop a relationship with someone who, whilst not in his ward, had wanted help with a family member's housing problem. Once he had indicated that he was attempting to help, his <b>messages to the individual became sexually explicit</b> as</p>	<p><b>Tribunal Decision:</b> Breach of paragraphs 4(b), 4(c), 5(a), 6(1)(a) and 7(a). No breach of paragraphs 4(d), 11(2)(a) and 14(1)(d)</p> <p>Suspended for four months</p>	<p>Fact specific circumstances.</p> <p>The Tribunal considered whether it ought to make a recommendation that the Respondent specifically apologise to the individual and the officers for his conduct but, having considered the Sanctions Guidance (paragraphs 54 and 55), <b>it concluded that such recommendations ought to</b></p>

	<p>he hoped for reciprocation. When he did not get the help and cooperation that he had hoped for from Housing Officers, he became <b>rude and threatening</b> and subsequently adopted a similar approach to the Monitoring Officer when the issues came to light.</p>		<p><b>have been directed to the authorities and/or their Standards Committees.</b></p>
<p><b>Name:</b> Former Councillor Jeff Davies  <b>Reference number:</b> APW/007/2023-024/CT  <b>Relevant authority:</b> New Quay Town Council  <b>Nature of allegation:</b> Breach of paragraph 6(1)(a)  <a href="#">apw-decision-report-jeff-davies_0.pdf</a></p>	<p>It was alleged the Member sent messages of a <b>sexually explicit</b> nature to an individual which amounted to the <b>offence of harassment</b>, culminating in what could be perceived to be an <b>attempt to blackmail</b> the recipient, and which resulted in a <b>conditional caution</b> being issued by the Police.</p> <p>It was alleged that this conduct could reasonably be regarded as bringing the Respondent's office as Member or the Relevant Authority into disrepute and was therefore suggestive of a breach of Paragraph 6(1)(a) of the Code of Conduct for Members</p>	<p>The Case Tribunal noted that the Respondent had <b>accepted that he had engaged in criminal behaviour</b> by accepting a conditional caution. The offence which the Respondent had admitted was that of <b>harassment of the victim</b> which he knew or ought to have known amounted to harassment. The Respondent had sent numerous and clearly unwanted messages of a sexual and salacious nature to the victim.</p> <p><b>Tribunal Decision:</b> Breach of paragraph 6(1)(a). Disqualified for 12 months.</p>	<p>The Case Tribunal concluded that the relevant question in this respect was <b>whether the relevant behaviour occurred whilst the Respondent was a Member.</b></p> <p>Whereas Paragraph 4(a) of the Code refers specifically to the fact that a Member must not harass any person, that part of the Code did not apply when the Member was acting in a private capacity as the PSOW and witnesses had agreed was the case here. Paragraph 6(1)(a) could however apply in such circumstances</p>

<p><b>Name:</b> Former Councillor Steve Davies</p> <p><b>Reference number:</b> APW/006/2023-024/CT</p> <p><b>Relevant authority:</b> Ceredigion County Council &amp; Aberystwyth Town Council</p> <p><b>Nature of allegation:</b> Breach of paragraphs 4(b), 4(c), 6(1)(a) &amp; 7(a)</p> <p><a href="#">apw-decision-report-fmr-cllr-steve-davies.pdf</a></p>	<p>It was alleged that the Member had engaged in behaviour over a number of years and involving different individuals and locations that can broadly be categorised as unwanted, often persistent contact and in some cases harassment. <i>(The full details in respect of each of the 8 incidents considered can be found outlined in the Decision)</i></p>	<p><b>Tribunal Decision:</b> Breach of paragraph 4(b), 4(c) &amp; 6(1)(a). No breach of paragraph 7(a). Disqualified for 3 years.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 4 (b) and (c) of the Code ought to have been considered sui generis with (a) and read in the same context; they covered an <b>individual's conduct when carrying out his duties as a councillor</b>. He therefore had to have been working in that capacity and/or holding himself out as such at the time of any alleged breaches.</p>
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<b>CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	
<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Standards Committee</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>22 January 2026</b>
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Applications for Dispensations</b>
<b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:</b>	<b>To advise the Standards Committee of the outcome of any dispensation applications received since the last written report to the Standards Committee</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Gurvynda Paddan-White Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer</b>
<b>LINK OFFICER:</b>	<b>Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer</b>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

As set out in the Isle of Anglesey County Council's Code of Conduct, members who have a personal and prejudicial interest are precluded from any discussion on that matter in Full Council, Executive or in any meeting which they attend in their capacity as a member of the Council.

Personal interests are listed in paragraph 10 of the Code. The definition of prejudicial interests is provided in paragraph 12 of the Code.

In some limited, and specified, circumstances a member may be able to overreach the impediment created by the personal and prejudicial interest if they are able to obtain a dispensation from the Standards Committee, this will enable the member to participate in the matter; perhaps with a limited or restricted input, and for a specified timescale.

## 2. BACKGROUND

Given that dispensations are often required at the minimum amount of notice legally possible, the Standards Committee has established an arrangement whereby a Panel of three members may be called to deal with any application received between meetings of the full Committee. Applications received from county councillors may be heard by any three independent / County Council members (with the independent members to be in the majority) and applications from town/community councillors are to be heard by independent members and town/community council members (independent members to be in the majority).

### **3. APPLICATIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST REPORT**

#### **3.1 Dispensation Panel Hearing on 9 October 2025**

- 3.1.1 A Dispensation Panel was asked to consider an application made by Councillor Keith Roberts and Councillor Jeff Evans who are Local Authority appointed Governors of Holyhead High School, and members of Corporate Scrutiny Committee, and Councillor Jeff Evans is also Chair of Corporate Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.1.2 Attached at **Enclosure 1** are the draft Minutes from the Dispensation Panel Hearing.
- 3.1.3 The Panel decided to grant a dispensation to both Councillors who had applied for a dispensation on the following terms:
- write to officers and/or the Committee/Council about the matter;
  - speak to officers of the Council about the matter without conditions;
  - speak at Committee meetings/Council meetings and answer any questions about the issue;
  - remain in the room during any debate/vote on the issue;
  - vote; and
  - participate in all external meetings and meetings of any outside bodies in capacity as a member of the Council.
- 
- Dispensation to expire at the end of the consultation period and all discussions/decisions relating to and arising from any such consultation in relation to education provision in the Holyhead area, or the expiry of the Councillor's current term at Anglesey County Council, whichever is later.

### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 For the Committee to note the dispensations granted and the grounds and circumstances in which they were granted.



**DISPENSATION PANEL (OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE)**

**Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 9 October 2025**

**PRESENT:** **Independent Members**

Mr Brace Griffiths (Chair)  
Mr John R Jones

**Representing the County Council**

Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer (GP)  
Committee Officer (SC)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Keith Roberts

**APOLOGIES:** None

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The Vice-Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting of the Dispensation Panel.

**1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas declared a personal interest in Item 2 on the agenda as he is a County Councillor for the Cybi Ward, which sits within the catchment area of Holyhead High School.

Councillor Keith Roberts (one of the applicants for a dispensation) declared a personal interest in Item 2 on the agenda, as he is a County Councillor for the Cybi Ward, and a school Governor at Holyhead High School.

**2. APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

The Legal Service Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer (GP) reported that two applications for dispensation have been received from Councillor Jeff Evans and Councillor Keith Roberts in relation to their interests in a proposal for Holyhead High School, where they are both County Council appointed Governors.

Reference was made to the Code of Conduct (Enclosure 1 to the report), which sets out conditions under which County Councillors may seek dispensation for personal and prejudicial interests. The Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer stated that the applications in the report are seeking dispensation for transparency and openness, to permit the applicants to take part in any debate and decision making in the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 15 October 2025, where the matters will be considered. It was noted that Councillor Jeff Evans is Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Roberts was afforded an opportunity to address the Panel and gave his reasons for seeking a dispensation.

Following hearing the background to the applications for dispensation by the applicants, the Panel retired to private session to determine whether or not to grant dispensation, and if granting dispensation, to consider (i) on what ground(s) the dispensation is granted and (ii) whether there are any limitations/constraints to be imposed.

**It was RESOLVED to grant dispensation to Councillor Jeff Evans and Councillor Keith Roberts, in their capacity as Governors of Holyhead High School in respect of those interests referred to in the application. The dispensation permits the Councillors to: -**

- **write to officers and/or the Committee/Council about the matter;**
- **speak to officers of the Council about the matter, without conditions;**
- **speak at Committee/Council meetings and answer any questions about the issue;**
- **remain in the room during any debate/vote on the issue;**
- **vote; and**
- **participate in all external meetings and meetings of any outside bodies in their capacity as members of the Council.**

**Action:**

- **That Councillor Evans and Councillor Roberts must declare a personal interest when attending Council and all other relevant meetings.**
- **That the Chair writes to Councillor Jeff Evans and Councillor Keith Roberts confirming that the Dispensation Panel has granted dispensation permitting them to write, speak, and vote on all matters relating to this matter.**

The meeting concluded at 2:30 pm

**MR BRACE GRIFFITHS  
CHAIR**

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
COMMITTEE:	Standards Committee
DATE:	22 January 2026
REPORT TITLE:	Legal Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer update
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	As above
REPORT BY:	Lisa Lord / Gurvynda Paddan-White Legal Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer (Locum) <a href="mailto:lisalord@ynysmon.llyw.cymru">lisalord@ynysmon.llyw.cymru</a>
LINK OFFICER:	Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer <a href="mailto:lbxcs@ynysmon.llyw.cymru">lbxcs@ynysmon.llyw.cymru</a>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report is to provide an update from the Legal Service Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer on a number of matters relevant to the Committee.

## 2. ACTION

### 2.1 Standards Committee Annual Report 2024/2025

On 25 September 2025, the Chair of Standards Committee presented the Annual Report to full Council. At the meeting, Council approved

- i. the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2024/2025, and
- ii. the Standards Committee's Work Programme for 2025/2026 (whilst acknowledging that some additional matters may be included, in accordance with demands which may arise).

A copy of the Annual Report has been sent to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

A copy of the report to full Council and the Annual Report for 2024/2025 is available to view at [here](#)

### 2.2 Code of Conduct Training – update

Following on from the Standards Committee meeting in June this year, all Town and Community Councils were written to on 6 August 2025 asking for details about their Code of Conduct training plans and publishing their plans. To date the Council has received 6 responses from all the Councils written too.

### **2.3 Letter to PSOW – update**

A letter was sent on 16 July from the Chair expressing the committee's concern about the length of time taken to investigate allegations that members of the County Council and community councils in the area have breached their Code of Conduct. We received a letter from the Ombudsman on 29 July 2025, detailing their apologies and setting out their 'recent initiatives taken to try to improve the timeliness of investigations'. These include the following:

- Allocated resources to create an 'Assessment Officer' role in the Code of Conduct Team, for the first time. New complaints are channelled through this role, to enable prompt decisions to be reached on whether a complaint should be investigated. Investigation Officers are then able to focus solely on investigations and hearing commitments, without having to manage these alongside assessments.
- A Case Handling Assistant role has also been created, on a fixed term basis, to help Investigation Officers with vital administrative tasks, such as arranging interviews, issuing correspondence and chasing statements, etc.
- Recruitment of Graduate Investigation Officers and one is on placement in the Code of Conduct Team, at present increasing investigation capacity

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

To note the report

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Standards Committee</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>22 January 2026</b>
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Standards Committee Briefing Notes for Members</b>
<b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:</b>	<b>To update the Committee on the timetable for review and reissuing of the Briefing Notes issued by Standards Committee to Members</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Lisa Lord</b> <b>Legal Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer (Locum)</b> <a href="mailto:lisalord@ynysmon.llyw.cymru">lisalord@ynysmon.llyw.cymru</a>
<b>LINK OFFICER:</b>	<b>Lynn Ball</b> <b>Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer</b> <a href="mailto:lbxc@ynysmon.llyw.cymru">lbxc@ynysmon.llyw.cymru</a>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Committee may recall that following consideration of the Audit Wales Report in respect of Wrexham County Borough Council, it was agreed that the briefing notes issued by the Committee to Members should be reviewed and reissued.

This report sets out the proposed timetable for review and the steps for reissue.

The Monitoring Officer is satisfied that the briefing notes are legally sounds and the advice within remains current, however it was agreed that the briefing notes would benefit from being refreshed and reissued to support the duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct amongst Anglesey County Councillors and Town and Community Councillors, including assisting members in adhering to their Code of Conduct.

## 2. NEXT STEPS

It is proposed that the briefing notes be reviewed in accordance with the timetable below:

	<b>Proposed date for reissue</b>
Declaring personal and prejudicial interests by IOACC Members	End January
Declaring personal and prejudicial interests by Town and Community Council Members	End of January
Gifts and Hospitality	End of February
Application for dispensation by IOACC Members	End of February
Application for dispensation by Town and Community Council Members	End of February
Considering applications for dispensation	End of February

The revised briefing notes will be shared on the Members portal and Group Leaders will be asked to promote the briefing notes with their Group.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

[Values and Behaviours follow-up review – Wrexham County Borough Council | Audit Wales](#)

### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 To note the next steps in relation to the review and reissue of the Standards Committee Briefing Notes to Members

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
COMMITTEE:	Standards Committee
DATE:	22 January 2026
REPORT TITLE:	National Standards Committee Forum for Wales
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	Update on the National Standards Committee Forum for Wales
REPORT BY:	Gurvynda Paddan-White Legal Services Manager/DMO
LINK OFFICER:	Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer <a href="mailto:lbxc@ynysmon.llyw.cymru">lbxc@ynysmon.llyw.cymru</a>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A National Standards Committee Forum has been set up in Wales, as a result of the recommendation made by the Penn Review on the Ethical Regime in Wales.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Forum's terms of reference, only the Chair of each Standards Committee attends the Forum meetings.

## 2. FORUM MEETINGS

- 2.1 The Forum meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025. The minutes of the meeting are attached to this report. The key theme related to PSOW investigation timings and delays.
- 2.2 The next meeting is scheduled for 26 January 2026

## 3. THE FORUM'S DOCUMENTATION

- 3.1 The Forum has agreed that, in relation to Forum notes - *"the notes may be circulated to Standards Committees, provided no individual complainant or councillor complained of could be identified. This will be kept under review at/after each meeting."*

## 4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 For the Committee to note the contents of this report.

## Standards Committees Chairs Forum - Wales

Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 @ 2pm, via Teams

### Notes

#### **1. Notes of previous meeting – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

Actions confirmed as completed. The Forum discussed notes 3(a) and 9 at today's meeting – See notes 2 & 3 below.

#### **2. Future engagement with the Welsh Government (WG), Local Government Policy Division, Climate Change and Rural Affairs (item 3(a) from notes of previous meeting).**

JC confirmed that she and CT had met with PL from the Welsh Government Policy Division and recommended that contact with the Chairs who were prepared to participate in consultation/feedback sessions organised by her Division would best be made via their respective Monitoring Officers.

#### **3. Remuneration – update on engagement with the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru (D&BCC) (Item 9 from notes of previous meeting).**

CW confirmed that he had written to the Chief Executive of the D&BCC outlining his frustration with the payments to co-opted Members i.e., that the rates had not been increased for some time and the inconsistency of how the payments were applied across Wales. The CEO confirmed that she would be pleased to attend a meeting of the Forum although that was unlikely to be at the June 2025 meeting. It was more probable to be the meeting thereafter, to allow for confirmation of the D&BCC work programme with her Commissioners, which included the responsibilities transferred from the IRPW.

#### **4. Michelle Morris (MM), Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) – Update.**

MM updated the Forum on the following.

- a) Notification of a complaint (note 5c from previous meeting). The PSOW, following consultation with stakeholders, had from 1 April 2025, reverted to notifying Members at the point when they had been complained about and not later in the process, when an assessment had been made if there may be a case to answer.



b) Casework.

- Caseloads for code of conduct complaints were fewer than last year although the level remained high, 315 cases, compared to previous years.
- 60% related to Town and Community Councils (7% increase on the previous year) and 40% to Local Authorities. A lack of equality and respect was the main complaint theme.
- The PSOW investigated 49 cases during the previous year, of which 15 had been referred to Standards Committees or the Adjudication Panel for Wales. That remained at a high level despite being lower than 20 referrals the previous year. Notably 85% of the referred breaches were upheld which was a positive indicator for the PSOW i.e. the application of the two-stage test to indicate that there may be a case to answer was working effectively.
- The previous year, 2024- 2025 had been a busy one for the PSOW and a summary will be included in the Annual Report and published at the end of July 2025.

c) Local Resolution Protocols (LRPs).

- It was very important for low level issues to be resolved locally wherever possible.
- Local resolutions meant that matters would be dealt with quickly before relationships were affected and situations escalated unnecessarily. The more serious cases could then be dealt with by the PSOW which was a much better use of their resources.
- The PSOW were working on developing good practice with LAs including Monitoring Officers.

d) Responses to questions/observations from the Chairs.

- There was a concern that some cases were taking a long time to consider. MM acknowledged that some cases had been ongoing for more than a year, which was too long and the PSOW was working to reduce it. The reasons for this were due to a high number of complaints and not enough staff to process them. There was no funding for additional support although a temporary member of staff and one other staff member had been allocated to deal with the issue. A dedicated officer for assessment work was focussed on this area and it was hoped that next year, more cases would be dealt with within 12 months.
- For consistency, would it be better for a single “top-down” approach for a LRP model, rather than leave it to individual Standards Committees which inevitably resulted in inconsistent procedures. In response MM highlighted it was not straightforward because these matters were part of each Council’s constitution. The intention was

to issue best practice, as opposed to imposing a procedure, with a view to achieving consistency.

- MM will continue to try and make the PSOW Annual Report an “easy and interesting” read. MM will also check and confirm if it is possible to show trends over time i.e., to place current year figures into context, e.g., 315 code of conduct complaints compared to previous years.
- Points were raised by the Chairs about complaints involving Town and Community Councils; it was not clear how many had completed the One Voice Wales training and signed the civility and respect pledge, given the number of complaints in this sector, was it timely for the training to be reviewed; there were too many vacancies for Clerks and not enough candidates were standing for election as a T&CC councillor, should Welsh Government consider merging smaller community councils; where multiple Councils appoint a shared Clerk that can leave a significant gap if they leave, could a local authority employ a pool of Clerks to provide greater resilience and lastly a community review was underway in one area whereby a Council was reviewing the number and size of T&CCs. It was recognised that this was a sensitive area. The Forum were informed about the Welsh Government (LGH Committee) inquiry which was due to report on this area and the Welsh Government Democratic Health Task and Finish Group that focussed on improving participation and diversity in Town and Community Councils.

## **5. Matters raised by exception by the Chairs.**

**Dispensations, individual committee approaches: (CD, Chair Ceredigion Standards Committee).**

- a) Are councillors required to attend to present their application; views on duration of dispensation e.g. annual/length of term; acceptance of late applications; any written advice to councillors on these aspects; delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer.**
- b) Is there written guidance for committee members on how to approach making a decision e.g., what to consider/allow e.g. when to allow voting or not.**
  - JC advised that there are differences between the way dispensations are dealt with in Wales and England.
  - Refer to the Local Government Act 2000 s.81(4) for a list of dispensations, lots of latitude – it is very wide.
  - In Wales procedures are a matter for local constitutions, and they do differ. Chairs confirmed this e.g., in some cases it is

mandatory for a Member to appear before a Standards Committee whereas in others it is not.

- Dispensations are granted for varying lengths of time e.g., a year and are subject to review, whereas in other cases they may be for longer or even for a single meeting.
- It is possible to make urgent decisions e.g., in consultation with Chair of Standards who discuss it with the Monitoring Officer.
- JH offered to circulate the standard form that is used in her Council.

**Action JH to circulate via CT.**

**6. Recent cases of interest - Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW) and Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) in previous 6 months – JC.**

- a) Consistent with the Forum's purpose as a learning network, the Chairs appreciated the opportunity to discuss several cases of interest and learn from cross sector experiences.
- b) Chairs reiterated comments made at the previous meeting about the complexity and time commitment required for conduct hearings. Some Councils have a formal written protocol.

**Action CD to share her Standards Committee Chair's briefing document for hearings. CT to circulate to the Forum.**

- c). Important that Standards Committees are clear about the reasons for their decision. Some appeals are allowed because the decision has not been given properly in writing in full. The presentation slides of the former President of the APW (circulated with the notes of a previous meeting) were very helpful on this.

**Action CT to re-circulate the APW slides.**

**Action JH to share her Committee's considerations when setting out their Hearing decisions.**

- d). Some Chairs might appreciate a "buddy" approach with Chairs with previous experience of hearings.
- e). To avoid a case where the Monitoring Officer has a conflict of interest, they can pass the matter to their deputy or it is not unusual, as standard practice, for Deputy Monitoring Officers to receive a complaint initially to avoid this scenario.

## **7. Forum Chair**

As indicated at the previous meeting CW will remain in the role as Chair until his successor is appointed at the next scheduled meeting on 26 January 2026. CW was thanked for performing the role as the Forum's first Chair since it was established. His commitment and support had ensured the Forum had got off to a good start by establishing itself as intended i.e., a learning forum for Chairs to share experiences from across the sector and developing best practice.

**Action: JC and CT to facilitate the arrangements for the appointment of Forum Chair and Vice Chair with effect from 26 January 2026. Anyone interested in the role will be asked to submit a 250-word pen picture and it is likely the appointment will be for 2 years.**

## **8. Dates of next meeting.**

- Monday 26 January 2026, 2pm – 4pm on Teams.
- Monday 22 June 2026 or 29 June 2026 (to be confirmed), 2pm – 4pm online.

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
COMMITTEE:	Standards Committee
DATE:	22 January 2026
REPORT TITLE:	The Local Government (Standards Committees and Member Conduct) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2025
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	To update the Committee on the changes to the eligibility criteria for lay members and the Model Members Code of Conduct
REPORT BY:	Lisa Lord Legal Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer (Locum) <a href="mailto:lisalord@ynysmon.llyw.cymru">lisalord@ynysmon.llyw.cymru</a>
LINK OFFICER:	Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer <a href="mailto:lbxcs@ynysmon.llyw.cymru">lbxcs@ynysmon.llyw.cymru</a>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Local Government (Standards Committees and Member Conduct) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2025 (the Regulations) come into force on 5 January 2026. The Regulations make amendments to:

- i. The eligibility criteria for lay members,
- ii. The model Member Code of Conduct.

This report sets out the amendments and the steps that will be taken to ensure consistency with the Regulations.

## 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR LAY MEMBERS

The Regulations amend the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 in relation to the eligibility criteria for lay members.

The current eligibility criteria for lay members who have previously been members of a relevant authority are replaced with the criteria summarised below

any person who has held a <b>senior, cabinet or executive post</b> in one or more relevant authorities must not be an independent member of the standards committee of any relevant authority in which that person held such a post	until the expiry of the period of <b>five years</b> commencing with the date on which that person last ceased to hold such a post;
any person who was a member of one or more relevant authorities must not be an	until the expiry of the period of <b>two years</b> commencing with the date on which that

independent member of the standards committee of any relevant authority of which that person was a member (not holding a senior, cabinet or executive post)	person last ceased to be a member of that authority
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The same time periods are also applied to previous members and Standards Committees of a corporate joint committee.

In relation to previous officers of a relevant authority the amended criteria is as summarised below

A person not holding a politically restricted post who has been but is no longer an officer of one or more relevant authorities may be an independent member of the standards committee of any relevant authority	No waiting period applies
A person who has been but is no longer an officer and held a <b>politically restricted post</b> of one or more relevant authorities may be an independent member of the standards committee	must not be an independent member of the standards committee of any relevant authority in which that person held such a politically restricted post the expiry of the period of <b>two years</b> commencing with the date on which that person last ceased to hold such a post

The same time periods are also applied to previous officers and Standards Committees of a corporate joint committee.

These changes do not require any amendment to the constitution. All paperwork for the recruitment and appointment of lay members will be reviewed and amended as required.

### 3. AMENDMENT TO THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Regulations amends the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) Order 2008 by adding a definition of 'protected characteristics' "nodweddion gwarchodedig" and amending paragraph 4(a) as follows

4. You must –

(a) *carry out your duties and responsibilities with due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people, regardless of their ~~gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, age or religion~~ protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances*

The relevant amendment to the Code of Conduct will be made by the Monitoring Officer under delegated authority and will be sent to all members.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

To note the amendments and steps that will be taken to ensure implementation and consistency with the Regulations.

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## PRAWF BUDD Y CYHOEDD PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

Cwynion am ymddygiad at Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru (OGCC) lle cafodd hysbysiadau o benderfyniadau eu cyflwyno i'r Cyngor yn ystod chwarter 1, 2 a 3 2025/2026

Conduct Complaints to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) where decision notices have been issued to the Council during quarter 1,2 and 3 of 2025/2026

Paragraffau 12 ac 13 Atodlen 12A Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 Paragraphs 12 and 13 Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	
Y prawf - The test	
<p>Mae budd i'r cyhoedd o ddatgelu oherwydd:</p> <p>Mae disgwyliad rhesymol i'r Pwyllgor Safonau fod yn dryloyw mewn perthynas â'r materion a drafodir ganddo.</p> <p>Mae'r Pwyllgor Safonau yn ystyried adroddiadau mewn perthynas â chwynion a dderbyniwyd gan Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru mewn perthynas â Chynghorwyr Sir a Chynghorwyr Tref a Chymuned. Bydd yr adroddiad fel arfer yn ddienw ac yn cael ei rannu â'r Pwyllgor Safonau er mwyn adnabod lefelau ac unrhyw dueddiadau sy'n codi. Mae hyn yn parhau i gael ei rannu â'r Pwyllgor yn gyhoeddus (Eitem 5 ar agenda'r cyfarfod hwn).</p> <p>There is a public interest in disclosure as:</p> <p>The business of the Standards Committee is connected with a reasonable expectation of transparency in respect of the matters discussed.</p> <p>The Standards Committee considers reports in relation to the complaints received by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales for both County Councillors and Town and Community Councillors. The report is usually anonymised and is shared with the Standards Committee to identify levels and any trends arising. This continues to be shared with the Committee publicly (agenda item 5 for this meeting).</p>	<p>Y budd i'r cyhoedd o beidio datgelu yw:</p> <p>Mae'r adroddiad yn cynnwys gwybodaeth sy'n ymwneud ag unigolion penodol ac mae'n debygol o ddatgelu pwy yw'r unigolion hyn.</p> <p>Mae budd i'r cyhoedd o beidio â datgelu trwy osgoi'r tebygolrwydd y byddai datgelu'n arwain at adnabod yr unigolion, neu'n arwain at wneud datgeliad am unigolion mewn modd a fyddai'n groes i'r darpariaethau peidio â datgelu yn Neddf Diogelu Data y DU 2018.</p> <p>Mae cyfarwyddyd Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru wrth anfon y Rhybudd Penderfyniad yn nodi gellir ei rannu gyda'r Pwyllgor Safonau'n breifat.</p> <p>The public interest in not disclosing is:</p> <p>The report contains information that relates to particular individuals and is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.</p> <p>The public interest in not disclosing is served by averting the likelihood that disclosure would result in the identification of individuals or result in the disclosure about individuals in a way that would breach the non-disclosure provisions of the UK Data Protection Act 2018.</p> <p>The instruction from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales when sending the Decision Notice details that it may be shared with the Standards Committee privately.</p>
<p><b>Argymhelliad</b> – Mae'r budd i'r cyhoedd wrth gadw'r eithriad o bwys mwy na'r budd i'r cyhoedd wrth ddatgelu'r wybodaeth.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b> - The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.</p>	

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