

| CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL | |
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| COMMITTEE: | Standards Committee |
| DATE: | 22 January 2026 |
| REPORT TITLE: | Applications for Dispensations |
| PURPOSE OF THE REPORT: | To advise the Standards Committee of the outcome of any dispensation applications received since the last written report to the Standards Committee |
| REPORT BY: | Gurvynda Paddan-White Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer |
| LINK OFFICER: | Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer |

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.
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- 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

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**