

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
COMMITTEE:	Standards Committee
DATE:	18 June 2026
REPORT TITLE:	Published findings by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales for all Councils in Wales
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	To advise the Committee of all Wales findings published on its website by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales for the period between 1 January and 30 April 2026
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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 January 2026 to April 2026 in relation to Code of Conduct matters only **ENCLOSURE 1**. There has been 1 matter in this period.

2. QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

The newsletter for the period covering Oct – Dec 2025 can be accessed ‘[here](#)’

3. 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 January 2026 – April 2026 in relation to Code of Conduct matters only.
2	A summary of the PSOW’ powers in relation to Code of Conduct complaints

ENCLOSURE 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>202307895</p> <p>Flintshire County Council</p> <p>Subject: Disclosure & registration of interest</p>	<p>It was alleged that the Member’s conduct during the time leading up to the Council’s vote on its Local Development Plan (“LDP”) was disrespectful and disparaging towards Council officers; that the Member attempted to improperly influence the vote of other members of the Council and failed to disclose a personal and prejudicial interest in the LDP.</p> <p>It was further alleged that the Member failed to declare a personal and prejudicial interest during a Council meeting on 24 January 2023, when the Council voted to approve its LDP.</p>	<p>No action necessary</p> <p>The Ombudsman found that the Member’s conduct in the time leading up to the Council’s vote on its LDP did not amount to a breach of the Code.</p>	<p>The Member had applied to the SC for dispensation in relation to the relevant planning application, demonstrating an improved awareness of his obligations under the Code, and subsequent appropriate conduct in relation to interests, likely following the clear advice received from the Monitoring Officer</p>