

## COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF CONDUCT STD 04-01 (DRAFT MIN)

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Date: 17th October 2001, at 09.00hrs

Venue: Committee Room 1, Cardiff Bay

Attendance:

### *Members*

David Melding, South Wales Central (Chair)  
Cynog Dafis, Mid and West Wales  
Janice Gregory, Ogmere  
Christine Gwyther, Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire  
Brian Hancock, Islwyn  
Gareth Jones, Conwy  
Gwenda Thomas, Neath  
Eleanor Burnham, North Wales  
Karen Sinclair, Clywd South

### *Officials*

Andrew George, Committee Clerk  
Gareth Rogers, Deputy Clerk  
David Lambert, Legal Adviser to the Presiding Office

### *Other*

Richard Penn, the Assembly's Independent Adviser on Standards

### **Item 1: Minutes of the last meeting and Chair's introductory remarks**

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Tributes were paid to Val Feld, who had served as a Member of the Committee from July 1999 to October 2000.
2. The Committee confirmed that the minutes of the last meeting (STD 03-01 min) were an accurate record.

### **Item 2: Quarterly update and review of action arising from STD-02-01 Paper STD-04-01(1)**

3. The Committee noted the Secretariat's paper, and agreed to discuss the one action point outstanding (on indirect interests) at Item 5.

### **Item 3: Update on the Register of Members interests**

Oral Item

4. The Clerk provided an update on the Register of Members Interests, confirming that the latest quarterly Report on the Register had been published on 8 August. Only one query had been received from Members following publication. This proposed establishing two registers - one for those interests which Standing Orders and the associated Guidance required Assembly Members to register; and another for other interests which Members might volunteer to register. The Committee noted that it had considered the possibilities of such a two-tier system during its review of the arrangements for registration and had decided not to adopt the procedure.

### **Item 4: The Committee's Annual Report 2000-2001**

Papers STD-04-01(02)

5. The Committee noted the content of the draft report and agreed a number of minor amendments to the text.

6. A Plenary slot on 29 November had been pencilled-in for the debate on the Annual report. It was agreed that the Chair should open and close the debate.

*Action:* Secretariat to revise the draft Annual Report and circulate to Committee Members in advance of the Plenary debate.

### **Item 5: Indirect Interests**

7. At its meeting on 28 June the Committee had approved a paper for the Business Committee summarising the conclusions and recommendations of the review of indirect interests. The Clerk reported that the Business Committee would be considering the paper at its meeting on 30 October and had invited the Chair to attend that meeting. The Committee agreed to await the outcome of the meeting before considering the issue further.

*Action:* Secretariat to confirm Chair's attendance at the Business Committee meeting.

### **Item 6: Freemasonry**

Oral Item by David Lambert

8. David Lambert provided an update on two decisions that had recently been made by the European Court on Human Rights. Although the transcripts of both decisions were only available in French at present, Mr Lambert was able to inform the Committee of his understanding of the rulings. The official English

translation might not be available for some time. However, a full 'unofficial' translation would be available within two weeks and the Committee agreed to consider this translation of the Court's rulings at its next meeting (12 December) and to invite representatives of the Freemasons to attend the meeting. It was noted that there had been some correspondence between the Freemasons and Carwyn Jones AM in his role as Minister with responsibility for human rights.

*Action: Secretariat to invite representatives of the Freemasons to the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December and obtain copies of relevant correspondence from Carwyn Jones AM. A copy of the full 'unofficial' translation of the European Courts judgement would be sent to the Freemasons.*

#### **Item 7: Review of Procedures for Standards**

Oral Item by the Clerk

9. At its meeting on 28 June the Committee had agreed to appoint an expert Adviser to take forward the review of the Assembly's procedures for standards of conduct.

10. The Clerk updated the Committee on the appointment process and said that one application had been received and nominations were sought from members willing to sit on a panel to consider the application and it was agreed to appoint the Chair, Cynog Dafis and Christine Gwyther.

#### **Item 8: Any Other Business and date of next meeting**

*Date of Next Meeting*

11. The Committee agreed that the next meeting should take place on Wednesday 12 December 2001.

*Standards Committee Secretariat*