

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Date: Wednesday, 20 March 2002
Time: 9:30am
Venue: Committee Room 2, National Assembly Building
Title: Privilege

A Member has raised with the Presiding Officer concerns about the use of the Privilege granted to Assembly Members by Section 77 of the Government of Wales Act. The Presiding Officer has decided to ask the Committee to consider the issue, as a matter of principle relating to the conduct of Members generally, under Standing Order 16.1 (iii).

He has specifically asked for the Committee's advice on whether the Assembly's current Standing Orders and guidance in this area are sufficiently robust, whether any changes are needed and, if so, what form these should take. Although the issue has been raised with him in relation to Members' conduct in Plenary, the Presiding Officer would find it helpful if the Committee could also consider any implications for the conduct of Committee business and Assembly proceedings more generally (for example in questions, statements of opinion etc). He has also asked if, in considering issues relating to business in Committees, the Committee could consult the panel of Chairs for their views.

The Committee is invited to consider this matter and advise on whether the current Standing Orders are sufficiently robust.

Secretariat