

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF CONDUCT STD(2) 04-05 (DRAFT MIN)**

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Date: 09 March 2006, at 2:00pm

Venue: Committee Room 3, Assembly Offices

Attendance:

*Members*

Kirsty Williams, Brecon and Radnorshire (Chair)  
Jocelyn Davies, South Wales East  
Tamsin Dunwoody, Preseli Pembrokeshire  
Lynne Neagle, Torfaen  
Karen Sinclair, Clwyd South  
Owen John Thomas, South Wales Central

*Standards Commissioner*

Richard Penn

*Officials*

Andrew George, Committee Clerk  
Gareth Rogers, Deputy Committee Clerk  
Peter Jones, Counsel to the Assembly Parliamentary Service  
Kathryn Thomas, Secretariat

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

Paper - STD(2) 01-06(01)

1. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members of the Committee.
2. Apologies were received from Gwenda Thomas, Glyn Davies and Val Lloyd.
3. The Chair recorded her thanks to Brynle Williams for his contribution to the work of the Committee during his membership.
4. The Committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2005, were an accurate record.

**Item 2: Update and Review of Action Arising from STD(2) 04-05**

Paper - STD(2) 01-06(02)

5. The Committee noted the paper and agreed to defer discussion on the sole action point until later in the meeting as the issue would be considered fully under agenda item (7):

### **Item 3: Standards Commissioner's Report**

Paper - STD(2) 01-06(03)

6. The Commissioner introduced his report and highlighted the main issues:
7. Members questioned the Commissioner on his report and as part of his response the Commissioner outlined his plans for continuing to build a standards culture in the Assembly.
8. Members also agreed to review the new complaints procedure, seeking the views of all participants in the process, at its next scheduled meeting on 25 May, or earlier if necessary.

**Action:**

Secretariat to facilitate a review of the complaints procedure.

### **Item 4: Complaint Procedure: Appeal Panels**

Paper - STD(2) 01-06(04)

9. The Committee agreed the procedure for establishing appeal panels subject to some minor amendments:
10. The Committee also asked that the Presiding Officer and the Presiding Judge should be made aware of the Committee's view that regard should be given to gender balance when establishing appeal panels. They also sought clarification as to the exact role of the 'independent legally qualified person' as a member of the appeal panel by the next meeting.

**Action:**

Secretariat to make minor amendments to the procedure for establishing appeal panels.

Secretariat to clarify the role of the 'independent legally qualified person' and report back to the next meeting.

### **Item 5: Standards Committee Annual Report**

**Paper: - STD(2) 01-06(05)**

11. Members were asked to note that the Annual Report was scheduled for debate in Plenary on Tuesday 2 May. Following consideration of the Annual Report Members agreed:

- (i) the contents of the Annual Report;
- (ii) that the Chair should open and close the debate with contributions from Members, as had been the format on previous occasions;
- (iii) that the opportunity should be used to bring forward the Standing Order changes previously agreed by the Committee, in the form of a composite Motion, which would be circulated in draft by the Committee Clerk for the agreement of committee members.
- (iv) that the debate should also incorporate, subject to the Committee's agreement to Agenda Item 6, revisions to the Code of Conduct.

**Action:**

Committee Clerk to circulate a draft Motion prior to the Plenary debate on the Annual Report.

**Item 6: Revised Code of Conduct for Assembly Members.**

**Paper: - STD(2) 01-06(06)**

12. Members noted the paper and unanimously agreed that the proposed revisions to the Code should be brought before Plenary on 2 May along with the Annual Report.

**Item 7: Revised Register of Members' Interests: Cumulative Registration of Gifts and Hospitality.**

**Oral Item**

13. The Chair advised committee members that the proposal to establish a committee to consider the detail of new Standing Orders for the Assembly post Government of Wales Bill should provide an opportunity for the Committee to recommend substantive changes to the current Standing Order 4. The Chair invited the Committee Clerk to give an oral report on the options for proceeding with the Committee's recommendation for the cumulative registration of gifts and hospitality. Having considered the options put forward by the Committee Clerk, the Committee agreed to defer introduction of registering gifts and hospitality over a 4 year period until the start of the next Assembly in 2007. This would enable the

Standards Committee to consider the registration of cumulative values in the context of the new Standing Orders.

**Item 8: Any other business and date of next meeting.**

14. The Committee were asked to note that the next two meetings were scheduled for 25 May and 29 June 2006.
15. There being no other business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 14:47.

**Standards Committee Secretariat**