

Agenda – Standards of Conduct Committee

Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Video-conference via Zoom	Meriel Singleton
Meeting date: 7 October 2024	Committee Clerk
Meeting time: 09.30	0300 200 6565
	SeneddStandards@senedd.wales

- 1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions**

- 2 Forward Work Programme**
(9.30 – 10.00) (Pages 1 – 10)

- 3 Individual Member Accountability – Deception**
(10.00 – 10.45) (Pages 11 – 282)

- 4 Consider a report from the Commissioner for Standards in accordance with Standing Order 22.2(i)**
(10.45 – 10.50)

- 5 Consider a report from the Commissioner for Standards in accordance with Standing Order 22.2(i)**
(10.50 – 10.55)

- 6 Consider a report from the Commissioner for Standards in accordance with Standing Order 22.2(i)**
(10.55 – 11.00)

- 7 Consider a report from the Commissioner for Standards in accordance with Standing Order 22.2(i)**
(11.00 – 11.05)

- 8 Paper to note – Letter from the Llywydd**
(Pages 283 – 284)



9 Paper to note – Letter from the Chair of the Petitions Committee

(Pages 285 – 286)

10 Consider a report from the Commissioner for Standards in accordance with Standing Order 22.2(i)

(11.05 – 11.10)

11 Consider a report from the Commissioner for Standards in accordance with Standing Order 22.2(i)

(11.10 – 11.15)

12 Consider a report from the Commissioner for Standards in accordance with Standing Order 22.2(i)

(11.15 – 11.20)

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Y Gwir Anrhydeddus Elin Jones AS

Llywydd, Senedd Cymru

Right Honourable Elin Jones MS

Llywydd, Welsh Parliament

Agenda Item 8

Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

Llywydd@senedd.cymru

0300 200 6565

Welsh Parliament

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

Llywydd@senedd.wales

0300 200 6565

Hannah Blythyn MS

Chair of the Standards of Conduct Committee

Senedd Cymru

Cardiff Bay

CF99 1SN

24 September 2024

Dear Hannah,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Chair of the Standards of Conduct Committee. I wish you well in your new role.

I write regarding your committee's ongoing inquiry into various aspects of Member accountability, including the Code of Conduct.

In recent years, our political arena has expanded to include the many social media platforms on which most Members have a presence.

These platforms are often the windows through which members of the public see their Senedd at work and the way in which their elected representatives interact with each other during parliamentary business.

With this in mind, and due to the increased volume of complaints considered by the Standards Commissioner and subsequently your committee relating to Member conduct on social media, I ask that you explore this issue in more detail as part of your current inquiry.

Whilst it is my duty as Presiding Officer alongside the Deputy Presiding Officer to maintain order in the Chamber, the way Senedd proceedings are repurposed as social media content is a relatively recent consideration and one for which there is no definitive guidance on its regulation.

I believe that examining this area of Member accountability in the context of representing the Senedd in online spaces and the responsibility to uphold the principles of dignity and respect and to protect Member wellbeing would be a worthwhile undertaking as we prepare for the next phase of our parliament's development.

I look forward to your response and would be happy to meet with you to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elin Jones'.

The Rt. Hon. Elin Jones MS/AS

Llywydd

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

Hannah Blythyn MS

Chair

Standards of Conduct Committee

Senedd

Tŷ Hywel

Cardiff Bay

25 September 2024

Dear Hannah

Petition P-06-1468 Set stricter rules to limit gifts, donations and payments received by Members of Senedd.

The Petitions Committee has received the following petition from Lyn Eynon, which has been collecting signatures on our website:

Petition text

There has been wide public concern over large donations given to a prominent Member of Senedd. Lessons must be learnt from this.

Additional Information

Wales must preserve and enhance its reputation for transparency and integrity. All Members of Senedd have a duty to ensure that no conflict arises, or appears to arise, between their public duties and their private interests.

Money must not buy, or appear to buy, political influence. There should be due diligence on the source of all benefits received by Members.

Before our first formal consideration of this petition, the Committee would like to seek your views on the issues it raises, as the Chair of the Senedd Committee responsible for considering the code of conduct, rules and guidance for Members.

I would be grateful if you could send your response by e-mail to the clerking team at petitions@senedd.wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'C' and a distinct 'y' at the end.

Carolyn Thomas
Chair, Petitions Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

