

## **Agenda – Standards of Conduct Committee**

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Meeting Venue:

Video-conference via Zoom

Meeting date: 9 February 2026

Meeting time: 10.15

For further information contact:

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Committee Clerk

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- 1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions**
  
- 2 Consider a report from the Commissioner for Standards in accordance with Standing Order 22.2(i)**  
(10.15–10.35) (Pages 1 – 3)
  
- 3 Consider a report from the Commissioner for Standards in accordance with Standing Order 22.2(i)**  
(10.35–10.55) (Pages 4 – 8)
  
- 4 Papers to note**
  - 4.1 Compiled Consultation responses: Review of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Senedd**  
(Pages 9 – 41)
  
  - 4.2 Letter from Business Committee and response from Chair of the Standards Committee**  
(Pages 42 – 45)



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# Agenda Item 3

By virtue of paragraph(s) ix of Standing Order 17.42

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By virtue of paragraph(s) ix of Standing Order 17.42

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# Agenda Item 4.2

## Business Committee

Hannah Blythyn MS  
Chair, Standards of Conduct Committee

29 January 2026

Dear Hannah,

### Registration and Declaration of Interests

The Business Committee has been considering the recommendations made to it by the Standards of Conduct Committee in its report on its Inquiry into Registration and Declaration of Interests: Declaration of Interests.

At its meeting on 29 January, the Business Committee considered recommendation 1 (relating to removing the prohibition on voting in Standing Order 2.9 where a Member has declared a registrable interest under Standing Orders 2.6 and 2.7) and recommendation 2 (making it a Standing Order requirement that a relevant interests must be declared at the point of tabling business).

The Business Committee accepted the first recommendation relating to the removal of the prohibition on voting.

In relation to the second recommendation, we have considered the implications of requiring that Members should declare interests at the point of tabling for Business Managers tabling on behalf of their groups and Ministers tabling on behalf of the government.

The Committee noted and welcomed the Standards of Conduct Committee's intention to also propose amendments to the Guidance on the Registration and Declaration of Interests, including the addition of a test of relevance that would outline factors that may influence whether it might be reasonable for others to think that an interest influenced a Member's contribution.

Before taking a final decision on recommendation 2, we would like to ask the Standards of Conduct Committee to include a similar test of relevance in relation to declaring interests at the point of tabling, providing some guidance regarding the expectations on Members tabling business on behalf of others (e.g. the government, Senedd Commission, a committee or a political group). In particular, we consider that it would be appropriate to indicate that it is less likely that a Member tabling

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business on behalf of others in this way would need to declare a relevant interest at the point of tabling.

We would be grateful if you could consider this proposal as part of your work on the Guidance.

It is our current intention for the Standing Order change reports relating to both the registration and the declaration of interests to be considered by the Senedd in the first half of March, to allow sufficient time for any resulting changes to Guidance to be considered by the Senedd before the end of the Sixth Senedd.

Please may I take this opportunity to thank the Standards of Conduct Committee for your continuing work on these matters.

Yours sincerely,



The Rt Hon Elin Jones MS

Chair of the Business Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Rt Hon Elin Jones MS, Llywydd and Chair of Business Committee

By email

4 February 2026

Dear Elin,

Thank you for your letter setting out the Business Committee's consideration of the Standards of Conduct Committee's recommendations on the registration and declaration of interests.

The Standards of Conduct Committee has considered your request that the guidance should include a test of relevance specifically in relation to declarations made at the point of tabling, and that this should provide clarity on expectations for Members who table business on behalf of others, such as the government, the Senedd Commission, committees or political groups.

As you note, the Committee has already agreed in principle to propose amendments to the Guidance on the Registration and Declaration of Interests, including the addition of a test of relevance setting out factors that may influence whether it might be reasonable for others to think that an interest has influenced a Member's contribution. The Committee has confirmed that the Commissioner for Standards would be content for the following wording to be added to the guidance:

*Factors that may influence whether it might be reasonable for others to think that the interest influenced the contribution include:*

- *the nature of the interest and how commonly held it is. For example, there is no need to declare if the interest is common to all Members (e.g. a Member's salary or being an employer) or if the interest is common to a very broad category of people to which the Member belongs (e.g. taxpayers, parents, users of the NHS);*
- *the capacity in which the Member is participating at the time (e.g. individual Member, Minister, Committee Chair, Commissioner or other office-holder);*
- *the context in which their contribution is being made, e.g. whether the Member is proactively raising the issue to which the interest relates; and*
- *the nature of the contribution and the factors other than the interest that will have influenced it, including whether the contribution could reasonably be considered by others to be promoting the Member's relevant interest at the expense, or to the detriment, of the interests of others.*

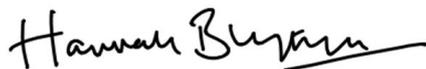
*The same principles apply both to oral declarations and declarations when tabling business. In the context of tabling business specifically, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> factors above, taken together, mean that the test would be less likely to be met if the Member is only formally tabling on behalf of others in their capacity as an office-holder - e.g. the government, Senedd Commission, a committee or a political group - than if the Member is tabling on their own behalf and/or has instigated the tabling of the business in question.*

The Committee agrees that the same principles should apply both to oral declarations and to declarations made when tabling business. In the specific context of tabling, the Committee considers that the second and third factors above, taken together, provide an appropriate basis for addressing the point raised by the Business Committee. In particular, they support the position that the test of relevance is less likely to be met where a Member is tabling business solely in their capacity as an office-holder acting on behalf of others, than where a Member is tabling business on their own behalf or has instigated the tabling of the business in question.

If you are content, the Committee will incorporate this clarification into the revised guidance, ensuring that Members have clear and practical direction on when a declaration is expected at the point of tabling, and when it is unlikely to be required.

We appreciate the Business Committee's continued engagement with this work.

Yours sincerely,



Hannah Blythyn MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.