

Agenda – Standards of Conduct Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 4 – Tŷ Hywel

Meeting date: 3 October 2017

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

Meriel Singleton

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddStandards@assembly.wales

- 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**
(9.30)
- 2 Paper(s) to note**
(9.30 – 9.35) (Pages 1 – 2)
 - 2.1 Correspondence on UK Standards issues: Correspondence from Lord Bew, Chair of Committee on Standards in Public Life (18 July 2017)**
(Page 3)
- 3 Assembly Reform: Correspondence from the Llywydd**
(9.35 – 9.50) (Pages 4 – 5)
SoC(5)–09–17 Paper 1 – Correspondence from the Llywydd – Assembly Reform: Standards of Conduct (18 August 2017)
- 4 Cross Party Groups Annual Reports 2016–17**
(9.50 – 10.05) (Pages 6 – 23)
SOC(5)–09–17 Paper 2 – Cross Party Groups Annual Report 2016–17
- 5 Inquiry into Lobbying – Draft Report**
(10.05 – 10.45) (Pages 24 – 46)
SoC(5)–09–17 Paper 3 – Draft Report



Concise Minutes – Standards of Conduct Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 4 – Tŷ Hywel

Meeting date: Tuesday, 18 July 2017

Meeting time: 09.31 – 09.46

Private

Attendance

Category	Names
Assembly Members:	Jayne Bryant AM (Chair) Gareth Bennett AM Paul Davies AM Llyr Gruffydd AM
Commissioner for Standards:	Sir Roderick Evans QC
Committee Staff:	Meriel Singleton (Second Clerk) Claire Griffiths (Deputy Clerk) Enrico Carpanini (Legal Adviser)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed the Members to Committee.
- 1.2 There were no apologies.



2 Implementation of the Wales Act 2017: Letter from the Llywydd (11 July 2017)

2.1 The letter was noted.

3 Report from the Commissioner for Standards in accordance with Standing Order 22.2(i): Consideration of draft report

3.1 Members considered and agreed the draft Report.

4 Commissioner for Standards Annual Report 2016–17

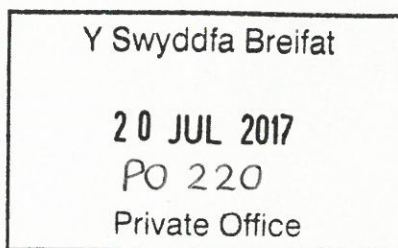
4.1 The Committee noted the report.

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Elin Jones AM
Presiding Officer
The National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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18 July 2017

Dear Elin,

I wanted formally to let you know that the Committee on Standards in Public Life is undertaking, at the request of the Prime Minister, a review into the intimidation of Parliamentary candidates, and the broader implications for other candidates and public office holders.

As you may be aware, our remit does not extend to the devolved territories, and as such we will not explicitly consider elections to the devolved Parliaments and assemblies in the UK. However, we expect to make recommendations that may be applicable to the National Assembly for Wales.

If you would like to discuss any of this, please do ask your office to contact the Secretariat who would of course be happy to fix a time and date for a conversation on the phone if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Bew
Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life

Agenda Item 2.1

Committee on
Standards in
Public Life



Agenda Item 3

Elin Jones AM, Llywydd
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

Elin Jones AM, Presiding Officer

National Assembly for Wales

Jayne Bryant AM
Chair
Standards of Conduct Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Your ref:
Our ref: EJ/HG

18 August 2017

Dear Jayne

Assembly reform: standards of conduct

As you will be aware, the Wales Act 2017 provides the Assembly with powers to determine its own internal, operational and electoral arrangements. The Commission is leading work to explore how these powers might be used to ensure that this institution is a stronger, more accessible, inclusive and forward-looking legislature that delivers effectively for the people of Wales.

Earlier this year I announced that the Commission intends to introduce legislation in 2018 to change the Assembly's name. I have also established an Expert Panel to consider matters relating to the size and electoral arrangements of the Assembly. Once the Panel has reported, the Commission will consider the full scope of the reform programme and the legislative proposals we intend to bring forward.

As part of this scoping work, the Commission is also considering whether any reform is required to the sections of the Government of Wales Act 2006 relating to the Assembly's internal arrangements which the Wales Act 2017 will bring within the Assembly's legislative competence.

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

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Elin Jones AC, Llywydd

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

Elin Jones AM, Presiding Officer

National Assembly for Wales

One such section is section 36, which makes provision relating to integrity and the standards of conduct of Members. As these issues fall within the remit of your Committee, I would welcome your thoughts, and those of your Committee, on:

- whether the current provisions provide an appropriate and proportionate framework for the Assembly's standards regime;
- whether any reforms are required, and, if so, whether the Assembly reform legislation could be an appropriate legislative vehicle.

To ensure that your Committee's views can inform the development of the legislation, it would be helpful to receive your views on any issues which might require legislative change as part of the reform programme by the end of 2017.

Yours sincerely

Elin Jones AM
Llywydd

cc Sir Roderick Evans, National Assembly for Wales Commissioner for Standards

Agenda Item 4

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

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Agenda Item 5

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

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