



Y Gwir Anrhydeddus Elin Jones AS

Llywydd, Senedd Cymru

Right Honourable Elin Jones MS

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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