

**Y Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad**  
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**Standards of Conduct Committee**

Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru  
National  
Assembly for  
Wales



To: All Assembly Members  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

22 May 2013

Dear Colleague

**Report on Lobbying and Cross-Party Groups – New Rules for Cross-Party Groups and a Code of Practice on Lobbying Activity**

I am writing to draw your attention to recommendations made by the Standards of Conduct Committee following an inquiry into the Assembly's arrangements in relation to lobbying activity. The Assembly will be invited to endorse new, more robust rules for the operation of Cross-Party Groups, and general guidance for Members on contact with lobbyists, in plenary. The provisional date for consideration in plenary is 26 June.

The Committee published its report on 2nd May and it is available on the website:

<http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=231>

If endorsed, the new Cross-Party Group Rules would not come into effect until the start of the autumn term, on Monday 23 September. I have written to all Cross-Party Group Chairs to assure them that Assembly Commission staff will

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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg. Rwy'n croesawu galwadau a wneir drwy wasanaeth Text Relay

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We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh. I welcome calls from people using the Text Relay service



contact them after June to provide further information about the practical implications of the rules, and to ensure that groups have the tools, guidance and support necessary in advance of the rules coming into effect.

In advance of the plenary debate, I attach a briefing to summarise the main changes proposed and the rationale behind them. I hope you find this helpful.

The Committee has given careful consideration to the content of these new rules and guidance. The intention is to provide the greater level of transparency and accountability expected by the public, without introducing measures that are overly onerous on Members. We have also recommended that these arrangements are reviewed again before the end of this Assembly to ensure that they remain fit for purpose.

I would be happy to discuss the report with any Member if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

**Mick Antoniw AC / AM**  
Cadeirydd / Chair

Enc: Briefing: Lobbying and Cross-Party Groups – Assembly Rules and Guidance

CC: Rosemary Butler AM, Presiding Officer  
Gerard Elias QC, Standards Commissioner for Wales