

Statement by the Standards Commissioner – Issued on 16 October 2018

I have received requests to reconsider my decision on the complaint about a video posted by Gareth Bennett AM about Joyce Watson AM. There is no mechanism in the procedure set by the Assembly for such reconsideration. However, each of the three requests contains a complaint about the video and I have decided to treat these requests as fresh complaints and they will, therefore, be investigated.

In view of my previous consideration of this matter, it is preferable that an Acting Commissioner considers the issues afresh. I have, therefore, asked the Chief Executive to seek the Assembly's approval to appoint a temporary Acting Commissioner for Standards to consider these new complaints. This is in accordance with the procedures provided in the 2009 Measure.

I am working with the Committee on Standards of Conduct and the Chief Executive to extend the expertise available to the office of the Standards Commissioner as I consider a wide range of complaints. Alignment of the Assembly's Dignity and Respect Policy with the current complaints procedure is an important and continuing part of my role.