



RTPI Cymru
Royal Town Planning Institute
Sefydliad Cynllunio Trefol Brenhinol

David Rowlands AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
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18 January 2019

Dear Chair

Petition P-05-845 End Conflict of Interest in Local Authority Constitution

Thank you for your letter dated 19 December 2018 regarding the above Petition. I am pleased to provide a response to the Committee Members' questions, following our previous response to the Committee.

An indication of the volume of correspondence and complaints that you receive in relation to conflict of interest in the planning process

For the past three years (2018 data has not yet been compiled, but an initial indication does not suggest any major change from the previous three years).

- 2015: 32 cases decided, 4 involved a possible conflict of interest and 3 were found to have breached the code;
- 2016: 44 cases decided, 2 involved a possible conflict of interest and 0 were found to have breached the code;
- 2017: 52 cases decided, 2 involved a possible conflict of interest and 0 were found to have breached the code.

The RTPI has approximately 25,000 members in the UK, Ireland and internationally (slight variations each year), so the data should be taken within this context i.e. there is a very low level of cases of conflict of interest. The majority of the cases do not relate to a conflict of interest.

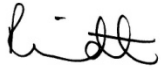
Clarification as to whether, under the RTPI's Code of Conduct, planning officers are able to undertake private work within their local authority area in circumstances where that is subdivided into area committees

We would advise members not to act in the circumstances described i.e. where there is subdivision into area committees. One of the challenges we post to members is

the perception of their action and would advise them to also take all steps to limit the perception of conflicts of interest.

I hope this provides the Committee with the evidence it requires. I would be happy to address any further specific questions that you or the Committee may have.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Willmott', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Roisin Willmott OBE FRTPI

Director

RTPI Cymru