

Agenda – Standards of Conduct Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 5 – Tŷ Hywel

Meeting date: 6 November 2018

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**
(09.30)

- 2 Code of Conduct – Review: Consideration of the Welsh Governments' response on 'Creating the Right Culture' report**
(09.30–10.00) (Pages 1 – 6)
SoC(5)–19–18 Paper 1 – Welsh Government response on ‘Creating the Right Culture’ report
SoC(5)–19–18 Paper 2 – Letter from Jayne Bryant AM, Committee Chair to Llywydd on ‘Creating the Right Culture’ report (11 October 2018)
SoC(5)–19–18 Paper 3 – Response from the Llywydd to the Committee Chair on ‘Creating the Right Culture’ report (30 October 2018)

- 3 Consider report from the Commissioner for Standards in accordance with Standing Order 22.2(1)**
(10.00 – 11.00)



Document is Restricted

Elin Jones AM, Llywydd
National Assembly for Wales

11 October 2018

Standards of Conduct Committee Report: Creating the Right Culture

Dear Llywydd,

The Standards of Conduct Committee meet on 9 October 2018 and considered the Assembly Commission's response to the recommendations in the Committee's Report.

The Committee was pleased to note the positive approach taken by the Commission in accepting the recommendations. I look forward to receiving regular updates from you on the development of this work and implementation of our recommendations. The Committee's Report was only a part of this important area of work which will require regular monitoring and refreshing to ensure it is fit for purpose.

Regarding Recommendation 14, I would welcome a clearer timeline on when you expect to formally respond. I appreciate that the new initiative of contact officers, introduced in May, needs time bed down and be reviewed. However, I would welcome a note on how the initiative is working in November –six months since it was introduced.

The Committee's Report will be debated in Plenary on 21 November when the Welsh Government's response to Recommendation 12 will be available



I would therefore welcome a response to this letter by 31 October, in order to allow the Committee to consider it at our meeting on 6 November.

Yours Sincerely,

Jayne Bryant

Jayne Bryant
Chair





Elin Jones AC, 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
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Your ref:
Our ref: PO 540/EJ/CS

30 October 2018

Dear Jayne,

Thank you for your letter of 11 October.

As noted in our exchange of correspondence, the Assembly Commission will wish to take advice on the potential for an anonymous reporting system once the Standards Commissioner has reported on his work with political party complaints procedures and once the outcome of an anonymous test of our complaints routes has been completed. The latter of these issues was a recommendation of the Committee in its report which we have accepted and is due to be completed by the end of 2018. You will be aware that we have been keen to address comments we heard in the media about the complexity of different systems which was seen as a barrier to making complaints through the formal routes. Taking these component parts into account, the Commission will want to take further advice early in 2019 before coming to a conclusion on an anonymous reporting.

The Committee also asked for an update on the work of the new Contact Officers since we introduced them in May. This information is provided in general terms so that we maintain the confidentiality of the work of Contact Officers as outlined in the Dignity and Respect policy and associated guidance. I am advised that there have been around eight approaches to the service and each of the individuals have been provided with advice and guidance about the appropriate routes for making a complaint and offered emotional support. In accordance with our guidance, such approaches are reported anonymously by the Contact Officers to the Head of Human Resources, who is then able to establish whether any patterns are emerging and whether interventions are required. In addition, two approaches

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

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have been made to our Contact Officers where the alleged complaints were not for the Assembly or our independent Standards Commissioner to consider. Complainants were sympathetically re-directed to the appropriate authority so that their complaints could be dealt with. Our Head of Human Resources will keep the work of our Contact Officers under review and let you, the Remuneration Board and the Assembly Commission, each of which are responsible for difference groups of people who work here, informed of progress.

I hope you will find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Elin Jones AM
Llywydd