

Alun Davies AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a
Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus
Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public
Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref ARD/00656/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
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2 October 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 14 September 2018 seeking my views on e-petition P-05-845
End Conflict of Interest in Local Authority Constitutions.

Local government employees in Wales (with the exception of fire-fighters and teachers, for whom there are separate arrangements) are expected to adhere to the provisions of a standard code of code prescribed by the 'Code of Conduct (Qualifying Local Government Employees) (Wales) Order 2001'.

The code of conduct, among other things, provides that in performing their duties employees must act with integrity, honesty, impartiality and objectivity. They must not allow their private interests to conflict with their public duty and they must comply with any rules of their authority on the registration and declaration of financial and non-financial interests.

Under the terms of section 82(7) of the Local Government Act 2000, the code of conduct forms part of the terms of appointment or conditions of employment of qualifying employees. Any failure by an employee to comply with the code of conduct is a matter for the local authority concerned as the employer.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

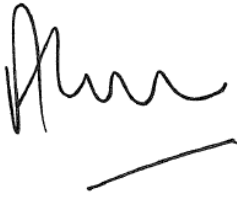
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Local planning authority officers along with all other officers, are required to abide by their authority's code of conduct. This does not preclude them from undertaking work in their field outside of their authority's area of responsibility, as long as their private interests are properly registered according with the rules and they do not allow their private interests to conflict with their public duty.

In addition, the majority of town planners in Wales are members of the Royal Town Planning Institute. Allegations that RTPI Members have acted unethically can be taken up with the RTPI's standards committee.

I think the current arrangements are sufficient, and it is for the local authorities to monitor and enforce the existing code of conduct.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun Davies', with a horizontal line underneath.

Alun Davies AC/AM

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