



STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 27TH JANUARY 2020

**PUBLIC INTEREST TEST - EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENT
PARAGRAPH 13 SCHEDULE 12A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

SUBJECT: APPENDIX 1B – REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES

REPORT BY: HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

I have considered grounds for exemption of information contained in the document referred to above and make the following recommendations to the Proper Officer:-

EXEMPTIONS APPLYING TO THE REPORT:

Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual (paragraph 13).

FACTORS IN FAVOUR OF DISCLOSURE:

There is a public interest in the way in which the Council deals with complaints which are referred to the Ombudsman for determination.

PREJUDICE WHICH WOULD RESULT IF THE INFORMATION WERE DISCLOSED:

The report issued by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales at Appendix 1B contains information which is likely to identify the complainant and/or the relative the subject of the report.

MY VIEW ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST IS AS FOLLOWS:

That paragraphs 13 should apply. My view on the Public Interest Test is that the anonymity of the individuals concerned must be maintained on the basis that the report contains information which is likely to reveal the identity of the complainant and/or the relative the subject of the report and the need to protect the individuals privacy outweighs the need for the information to be made public. This approach is also expected by the Ombudsman.

The information is not affected by any other statutory provision which requires the information to be publicly registered.

On that basis I feel that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Members are asked to consider this factor when determining the public interest test, which they must decide upon when considering excluding the public from this part of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED DECISION ON EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE:

On that basis I feel that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, and that the report should be exempt.

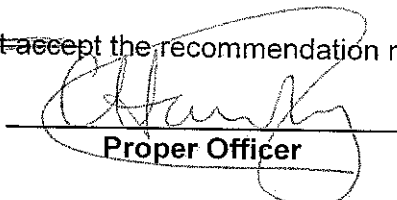
Signed: 

Date: 20th January 2020

Post: Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

I accept/~~do not accept~~ the recommendation made above.

Signed:


Proper Officer

Date: 20/1/20 2020