



STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 19TH JANUARY, 2024

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST – EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS SCHEDULE 12A (PARAGRAPHS 12 & 18C) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

**SUBJECT: REFERRAL OF AN INVESTIGATION REPORT BY THE PUBLIC
SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES**

REPORT BY: HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

I have considered grounds for exemption of information to be presented to the Committee and make the following recommendations to the Proper Officer:-

EXEMPTIONS APPLYING TO THE REPORT:

Paragraph 12 - Information relating to a particular individual(s) and paragraph 18C – the deliberations of the Standards Committee.

FACTORS IN FAVOUR OF DISCLOSURE:

There is a public interest in the way in which the Council deals with Member issues.

PREJUDICE WHICH WOULD RESULT IF THE INFORMATION WERE DISCLOSED:

The reports contains detailed information regarding personal information which affects a particular individual/s and the affairs of that individual/s. At this stage, the Standards Committee needs to consider the report in private.

MY VIEW ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST IS AS FOLLOWS:

That paragraphs 12 and 18C should apply. My view on the Public Interest Test is that whilst there is a need to ensure transparency and accountability of a public authority for decisions taken in relation to Member issues, this must be balanced against the fact that these matters have not yet been concluded at this stage and this outweighs the need for the information to be made public.

The information is not affected by any other statutory provision, which requires the information to be publicly registered. The information contains personal data which is protected by the Data Protection Act 1998.

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 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.

B. G. ...

Signed:

Dated: 9.1.24

Post: Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer

I accept recommendation made above.

D.M. Street

Signed:

09.01.2024

Proper Officer

Date: _____