



## STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 9TH OCTOBER 2019

### PUBLIC INTEREST TEST – EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS PARAGRAPH 13 SCHEDULE 12A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

**SUBJECT: COMPLAINT MADE TO THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES – UPDATE ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION**

**REPORT BY: HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES & MONITORING OFFICER**

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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 contains information which is likely to identify the complainant.

**MY VIEW ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST IS AS FOLLOWS:**

That paragraph 13 should apply. My view on the public interest test is that the anonymity of the individual concerned must be maintained on the basis that the report contains information which is likely to reveal the identity of the complainant and the need to protect the individuals' privacy outweighs the need for the information to be made public.

This 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 does outweigh 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 does outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information and that the information should be exempt.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

1/10/19

**Post:**

**Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer**

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

**Signed:**

  
Proper Officer

**Date:**

1/10/19