



**POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
4TH OCTOBER 2011**

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

SUBJECT: SICKNESS ABSENCE DATA

REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

EXEMPTIONS APPLYING TO THE REPORT:

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority). (Paragraph 14).

FACTORS IN FAVOUR OF DISCLOSURE:

The sickness absence levels of Local Government employees across Wales is a matter that the public would expect to be disclosed.

PREJUDICE WHICH WOULD RESULT IF THE INFORMATION WERE DISCLOSED:

The report contains the sickness absence levels of other Local Authorities who have not yet given permission for this data to be released to the public. It is anticipated that it will be possible to publicise this information at the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on the 4th October, 2011. Therefore, at the present time the report contains confidential information as set out in paragraph 14 of Schedule 12A.

MY VIEW ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST IS AS FOLLOWS:

There is a legitimate expectation that sickness absence levels in the public sector should be open to scrutiny. However, at the present time, the data contained within the attached report contains reference to the sickness absence levels of a number of Welsh Local Authorities who have not agreed to publish this data at the present time.

In that it is anticipated that the embargo on this information will be lifted prior to the Scrutiny Committee on 4th October, I feel that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

RECOMMENDED DECISION ON EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE:

I recommend that the report is exempt from disclosure, this recommendation is based on the fact that it is anticipated that the data contained within the report may be made public within the next seven days.

Signed ***Daniel Perkins***

Dated: 26 September, 2011

Post Principal Solicitor

I accept the recommendation made above.

Signed:



Proper Officer

Date:

26-9-11