



STANDARDS COMMITTEE - 16TH JUNE 2011

SUBJECT: REPORT FROM PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES

REPORT BY: MONITORING OFFICER

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 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 Reports from the Ombudsman.

PREJUDICE WHICH WOULD RESULT IF THE INFORMATION WERE DISCLOSED:

The report contains detailed information which could potentially identify particular individuals and contains personal and sensitive information which affects particular individuals and the affairs of those individuals. Furthermore the report from the Ombudsman was issued with a Directive from the Ombudsman that his report should not be publicised due to the sensitive nature of the complaint leading to the issue 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 whilst I am mindful of the need to ensure transparency and accountability of a Public Authority in relation to the way in which it deals with reports received from the Ombudsman, this must be balanced against the fact that the Council must in this case as a result of the Directive issued by the Ombudsman not to publish the report, ensure that the anonymity of the complainant is maintained. Consequently the need to protect the individuals identity and privacy outweighs the need for the contents of the report to be made public

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 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:



Dated 3rd June 2011

Post

Head of Legal & Governance

I accept the recommendation made above.

Signed:


Proper Officer

Date: 3rd June 2011