



**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
31ST MAY 2017**

**PUBLIC INTEREST TEST –
EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION
PARAGRAPH 13 SCHEDULE 12A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

SUBJECT: REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES

REPORT BY: INTERIM HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND 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 that is likely to reveal the identity of individuals (para 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 complaint includes personal information, which would identify individuals.

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 individuals concerned must be maintained on the basis that the report contains personal information 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.

Date: 23rd May 2017

Signed: 
Bethan Manners

Post: Principal Solicitor

I/do not accept the recommendation made above.

Signed: 
Proper Officer

Date: 23/5/17