



PENSIONS/COMPENSATION COMMITTEE – 15TH MAY 2018

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

**SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR EARLY RETIREMENT BY MUTUAL CONSENT ON THE
GROUNDS OF BUSINESS EFFICIENCY IN SCHOOLS**

REPORT BY: PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR

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

EXEMPTIONS APPLYING TO THE REPORT:

There are 4 reports included at Item 4 of the Agenda. The reports contain information relating to particular individuals (paragraph 12) and information relating to the financial or business affairs of particular persons (including the authority holding the information) (paragraph 14).

FACTORS IN FAVOUR OF DISCLOSURE:

There is a public interest in the way in which the Council will be organising its staffing arrangements.

PREJUDICE WHICH WOULD RESULT IF THE INFORMATION WERE DISCLOSED:

The report contains detailed information regarding the retirement of a number of members of staff in named schools and included within the Schedules attached to the individual reports are the detailed applications for the early release of pension benefits which affects those individuals named and the affairs of those individuals.

MY VIEW ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST IS AS FOLLOWS:

That paragraphs 12 and 14 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 staffing structures in schools, which may have an effect on the schools budgets, this must be balanced against the fact that these matters have not yet been concluded together with the rights of the named staff to privacy in respect of their financial/business affairs which at this stage outweigh 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.

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 upon 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:

Date:

8/5/18

Post: Principal Solicitor

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

Signed:

Proper Officer

Date:

8/5/18