APPENDIX 1

Ombudsman Ombwdsmon
PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES
OMBWDSMON GWASANAETHAU CYHOEDDUS CYMRU

Our ref: NB/KS

Date: 21 April 2015

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✉ ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Mr Gary Williams
Monitoring Officer
Denbighshire County Council
Council Offices
Wynnstay Road
Ruthin
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Adran Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Democrataidd
Legal and Democratic Services Department
23 APR 2015

Dear Mr Williams

Revised Guidance on the Code of Conduct

I am pleased to confirm that I have issued revised Guidance on the Code of Conduct for members. I am grateful to all who have taken part in the consultation process which has led to the production of this Guidance.

As you may already be aware, I have revised the two stage test that I use when deciding whether to investigate a complaint that the Code has been breached or to continue with an investigation to the stage of referring the matter to a standards committee or the Adjudication Panel for Wales, to include consideration of any public interest factors that may apply to a case. This is to ensure that I continue to investigate serious complaints to maintain public confidence in standards of public life. Further information about the revised test and the public interest factors that I may apply is included in Section 1 of the revised Guidance. Other changes include further guidance on the use of social media and political expression and two flowcharts which have been designed to provide members with assistance and clarity on the issue of interests.

No hard copies of the Guidance will be produced. However, copies can be downloaded from my website at www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk I would appreciate it if you could bring this to the attention of your members and your authority's standards committee so that they can familiarise themselves with the changes that I have made. I hope that the Guidance will continue to be a useful resource to both you and your members when considering their obligations under the Code.

Yours sincerely

Nick Bennett
Ombudsman

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Annwyl Mr Williams

Cyfarwyddyd Diwygiedig ar y Cod Ymddygiad

Mae'n bleser gennyf gadarnhau fy mod wedi cyhoeddi Canllawiau diwygiedig ar y Cod Ymddygiad ar gyfer aelodau. Rwy'n ddiolchgar i bawb a gymerodd ran yn y broses ymgynghori sydd wedi arwain at gynhyrchu'r Canllawiau hyn.

Fel y gwyddoch eisoes, o bosibl, yr wyf wedi diwygio'r prawf dau gam a ddefnyddiaf wrth benderfynu a ddylid ymchwilio i gŵyn fod y Cod wedi ei dorri neu i barhau ag ymchwiliad hyd at y cam o gyfeirio'r mater i bwyllgor safonau neu Banel Dyfarnu Cymru, i gynnwys ystyriaeth o unrhyw ffactorau budd cyhoeddus a allai fod yn berthnasol i'r achos. Mae hyn er mwyn sicrhau fy mod yn parhau i ymchwilio i gwynion difrifol er mwyn cynnal hyder y cyhoedd yn safonau bywyd cyhoeddus. Mae mwy o wybodaeth am y prawf diwygiedig a'r ffactorau budd cyhoeddus y gallaf eu defnyddio wedi'i chynnwys yn Adran 1 y Canllawiau diwygiedig. Mae newidiadau eraill yn cynnwys canllawiau pellach ar ddefnyddio cyfryngau cyhoeddus a mynegiant gwleidyddol a lluniwyd dau siart llif i ddarparu cymorth ac eglurder i aelodau ynghylch mater buddiannau.

Ni chynhyrchir copïau caled o'r Canllawiau. Fodd bynnag, gellir llwytho copïau oddi ar fy ngwefan yn www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech ddwyn hyn i sylw eich aelodau a phwyllgor safonau eich awdurdod fel y gallant ymgyfarwyddo â'r newidiadau a wnaed gennyf. Rwy'n gobeithio y bydd y canllawiau'n parhau i fod yn adnodd defnyddiol i chi ac i'ch aelodau wrth ystyried eu rhwymedigaethau dan y Cod.

Yn gywir

Nick Bennett
Ombwdsmon

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