

National Standards Committee Chairs Forum - Wales

Monday 29th January 2024 @ 2pm, via Teams

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Chairs Announcements
 - a. Welcome new Panel Advisor, Justine Cass, Deputy Monitoring Officer and Solicitor, Legal Services, Torfaen County Borough Council.

3. Notes of the previous meeting 30 June 2023.

NOTE 7 Richard Penn Review update.

The responses were being analysed and the results would be published during the autumn.

https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2023-11/wg48234-summary-reponses_0.pdf

<https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-responses-consultation-review-local-government-ethical-standards-framework>

4. Michelle Morris - Public Services Ombudsman for Wales – Update.
5. Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) and Joint Standards Committees. Presentation by Iwan Gwilym Evans, Gwynedd.

6. Resourcing of Standards Committees, Action 6 of previous meeting notes.

Specifically,

a. Resourcing of Standards Committees. Chair and Davina Fiore to discuss the possibility of raising the issue of budgets with the Monitoring Officer group.

b. payments to Co-opted Members.

c. <https://www.gov.wales/independent-remuneration-panel-wales-draft-annual-report-2024-2025> This is linked to the discussions at the previous meeting on workloads and item 6b on the agenda.

Chairs may wish to discuss report -

- i. in the context of the changes proposed (e.g. hourly rate) and non-changes (i.e. no increase in rates for independent members).
 - ii. The general application of the guidance and are they being applied consistently to Standards Committee members i.e., how the guidelines on remuneration are applied.
- Whether the Chairs have input into future IRPW reports e.g. could a representative from the IRPW be invited to a future meeting.

7. Local resolution protocols, how do they operate in your area and are they effective. Reflections. – All
8. Items raised by the Monitoring Officers Group.
 - a. Whether, in light of the duty to report on the performance of the Group Leader's duty, authorities allow group leaders to sit on their Standards Committee and, if so, how they manage any perceived conflict of interest between a group leader assessing their own performance and the performance of their political opponents.
 - b. Progress on adopting the agreed common threshold of £25 for the registration of gifts and hospitality.
 - c. Do authorities have any guidance on the use of social media over and above that published by the WLGA.
 - d. Whether authorities encourage their town & community councils to sign the civility and respect pledge - <https://www.slcc.co.uk/news-publications/civility-respect-pledge/> . If they do not whether they would consider doing so.
9. Training for Standards Committee Chairs.
10. Any other business.
11. Date of next meeting 24th June 2024.