

38. What are your overall views on the three options outlined above (more detailed questions on specific issues are set out below)? Are there any other options that would be more appropriate or effective?

(We would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

39. Should making a false or deceptive statement of fact be made a crime or be made subject to civil sanctions?

- Crime
- Civil sanctions
- Don't have a view

40. Please outline your reasons for your answer.

(We would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

41. What are your views on the nature of an independent judicial process that should be used if option 2 were pursued (i.e. a civil sanction investigated by an existing investigative body such as the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales or an independent Welsh Tribunal)?

(We would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

I do not make any comment on the policy considerations contained in the document.

If, however, the decision of the Senedd is to implement Option 2, the new jurisdiction would most appropriately fall into the remit of the Adjudication Panel for Wales remit, subject to budget, recruitment and training considerations to meet the demands of the new service.

42. If the making false or deceptive statements is made subject to a civil sanction, what standard of proof would be most appropriate - the civil standard (i.e. "on the balance of probabilities") or the criminal standard (i.e. "beyond reasonable doubt")? Although not common, there have been instances where professional disciplinary bodies have operated to the criminal standard.

- Civil standard
- Criminal standard
- Don't have a view

43. If option 3 were pursued (i.e. strengthening the existing Code of Conduct and sanctions) what are your views on the measures and mechanisms that could address the issue of deception or false statements? For example, through existing standards procedures or potential recall mechanisms.

(We would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

44. If a disqualification is introduced, what length of disqualification would be appropriate? For example, should there be a fixed period of disqualification, or a period (within a set range) to be determined on a case-by-case basis so that any mitigating circumstances that could reduce the period of disqualification are taken into consideration?

(We would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)