

Buffy Williams MS | AS

Chair, Senedd Labour Party

Cadeirydd, Plaid Llafur y Senedd

Senedd Labour Party

Room B204, Welsh Parliament,
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Plaid Llafur y Senedd

Ystafell B204, Senedd Cymru,
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Hannah Blythyn MS
Chair, Standards of Conduct Committee
Senedd Cymru

By email

Wednesday 26th March 2025

Dear Hannah,

I am writing on behalf of the Welsh Labour Group in the Senedd in response to the request for views regarding your committee's inquiry into the Registration and Declaration of Interests.

Members of the Welsh Labour Group may also respond on an individual basis.

We would like to make the following points regarding two of the Committee's proposals.

Proposal 11 - Membership/Chairmanship of bodies in receipt of Senedd Commission or Welsh Government funds

We agree with the proposal and the Committee's aim of better reflecting the memberships which Members should register in the title of this category.

In order to provide even greater clarity, we would also welcome a specific reference to organisations funded by Welsh Government Sponsored Bodies within the guidance to Members.

Members are occasionally unclear as to whether they should declare their membership of local organisations which are in receipt of grants, or other forms of funding, from these arms length bodies. A reference within the guidance would help to make this clearer for all Members.

Proposal 12 - Employment of Family Members

We support the proposal to remove the reference to employing members of a Member's own family, in order to reflect the new rules which will be in place from May 2026.

The Group would also strongly support the removal of the requirement to name family members and include other identifiable details on the register, in light of the extremely concerning increase in the levels of abuse faced by Members and their staff.

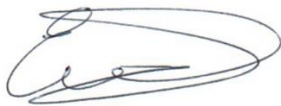
Family members who are employed by Members of the Senedd are not public figures and the Group strongly believes that additional measures are now required to protect their identity as part of the Senedd's wider commitment to protecting staff and Members from abuse and threats to their personal security.

Social media and other online tools make it extremely easy to identify and target individuals who are named on a public register. We believe that removing this requirement would be an important way in which the Senedd could seek to reduce the likelihood of future incidents in which family members and Members of the Senedd are targeted in this way.

More widely, we would also ask the committee to recommend that arrangements for recording Member interests are made as user friendly as possible and are accompanied by comprehensive guidance and support, including regular awareness raising of the rules.

I hope that the above is of assistance and helps with the committee's considerations.

Yours sincerely,



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Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament