

Rt Hon. Elin Jones MS, Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee

By email

16 July 2025

The Standards of Conduct Committee's report on Registration of interest

Dear Llywydd

You will be aware that the Standards of Conduct Committee ('the Committee') has undertaken a review of the rules on the registration of Members' interests with the aim of ensuring that the rules and practices are fit for purpose for the Seventh Senedd. This review has been informed by two consultations (the second of which you responded to on 23 March 2025) and by considering and comparing the ways in which other parliaments in the UK manage their respective registers.

Throughout its review, the Committee focused on the principles of transparency, clarity, and consistency. All recommendations have been made with these principles in mind.

The Committee's report relating to registrations of interest was laid on 15 July 2025. The Committee made 14 recommendations, of which 6 involve amending the Senedd's Standing Orders and so will need to be considered by the Business Committee. Those recommendations are:

Recommendation 1. The Committee recommends to the Business Committee that categories 1, 2, 3 and 5 of the Register, listed in Standing Order 2, are merged into one broad category used to capture all forms of Members' remunerated employment, while retaining the current level of information required.

Recommendation 2. The Committee recommends to the Business Committee that Standing Order 2 be amended to require Members to register the amount of remuneration received, or expect to receive, for each registrable activity.

Recommendation 10. The Committee recommends to Business Committee that Standing Order 3 be amended to remove the reference to employing members of a Member's own family.

Recommendation 11. The Committee recommends to Business Committee that Standing Order 3 be amended to make an exception for publishing the name of family members where they are employed by other Members.

Recommendation 12. The Committee recommends to Business Committee that Standing Order 4 be amended to enable the recording of time involved in a one-off registrable activity.

Recommendation 14. The Committee recommends to Business Committee that Standing Orders be amended to introduce a new voluntary category for the purpose of enabling Members to record any financial or other

interests that they wish to put in the public domain, but which aren't captured by any of the compulsory categories under Standing Order 2.

If the Senedd agrees these Standing Order changes, corresponding changes will need to be made to the forms that Members complete to update the register, and the Committee will also bring forward proposals to amend the Guidance accordingly. It is the Committee's intention that all changes – to the Standing Orders, the Guidance and the forms come into effect for the start of the Seventh Senedd.

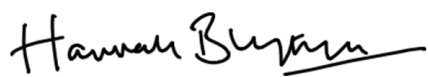
As you will be aware, under the Standing Orders the relevant forms must be prescribed by you as the Presiding Officer. In addition to any changes that will be necessary as a result of the proposed amendments to Standing Orders, the report also sets out a number of standalone recommendations to you regarding proposed changes to the forms.

Rather than consider those now, we propose that officials will work on drafting new Forms for your consideration at an appropriate time once the Business Committee's decisions on the above are known so that you can consider all the changes together. Please let us know if you have any concerns with that proposed approach to the forms

We look forward to following the Business Committee's consideration of our recommendations and to seeing the outcome of that work. I and other Committee members would of course be happy to engage with you and the Business Committee on that work should you consider that useful at any point.

I look forward to your response in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Hannah Blythyn MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.