

MEETING OF	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE	27 JANUARY 2014
SUBJECT	GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY REGISTER
PURPOSE	TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY REGISTER FOR MEMBERS
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1. At its meeting on 28 January 2013, the Standards Committee proposed amendments to the Gifts and Hospitality Protocol for members. The amended Protocol was submitted to the Full Council on 2 May and it was approved.
2. Relatively recently, a copy of the Protocol was sent to every Community Council. This was done at the request of the Standards Committee and as an illustrative document for them to adopt should they wish.
3. The Protocol offers guidance to assist members to adhere to the Code of Conduct which states in paragraph 17... "You must within 28 days of being offered any gift, hospitality, material benefit or advantage above the value of £25 provide written notification to your authority's monitoring officer of the existence and nature of that gift, hospitality, material benefit or advantage. You must register any such offer whether you accept it or not."
4. This annual report is submitted in order to report to the Committee on the declarations that have been registered in accordance with the Code of Conduct during the period between May 2012 and December 2013. An analysis of the declarations can be found in the Appendix.
5. In addition to analysing the declarations made by members of the County Council, a questionnaire was sent to all Community Councils. Of the 65 Community Councils in Gwynedd, a response was received from 29 of them and an analysis of their responses can be seen in the Appendix.
6. When discussing the Gifts and Hospitality Protocol in January 2013, the Committee was of the opinion that it was inappropriate to place the register on the Council's website although it is a document that would be available should a member of the public submit a freedom of information request.

7. By now, the legislation makes it a requirement for the register of benefits to be placed on the web, although that part of the act is yet to come into force. However, the same compulsion does not extend to the Gifts and Hospitality Register.

RECOMMENDATION

8. The Committee is asked to:
 - (i) note and accept the contents of the report;
 - (ii) make any observations on the report;
 - (iii) provide further guidance regarding publishing the register on the Council's website.

APPENDIX.

**REGISTER OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY GWYNEDD COUNCIL MEMBERS
2012 -2017.**

Date on the form/e-mail	Gift/Hospitality declared	Accepted/ Refused	Value.
14.11.12	Supper invitation to the Celt Hotel from Wales Arts Council.	Accepted	Over £25.
14.11.12	Invitation, ticket and refreshment for the Rugby 6 Nations Game at Cardiff 17.3.12 from S4C	Refused	Over £25
02.05.13	Dinner invitation at Port Meirion Hotel 23 rd April, 2013 from German Industry U.K.	Accepted	Over £25
23.09.13	Saffron, curry and rice, cushion cover and lighter from a member of the public	Accepted	Under £25.

**REGISTER OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEMBERS 2012 -2017.**

Number of councils which replied to the questionnaire	29
Number of councils that keep a register of gifts and hospitality.	10
Number of declarations made since May 2012	0.