

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTH WALES STANDARDS COMMITTEE
FORUM - HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM 1, ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL
ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER 2014**

PRESENT:-

Isle of Anglesey	Michael Wilson (Chair) Islwyn Jones (Vice-Chair) Robyn Jones (Deputy Monitoring Officer) Awena Walkden (Solicitor to the Monitoring Officer)
Conwy	Howie Roberts (Chair)
Flintshire	Edward Hughes (Chair) Robert Dewey (Vice-Chair)
Gwynedd	Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer) Sion Huws (Propriety Officer)
Wrexham	Ceri Nash (Vice-Chair)
Snowdonia National Park	David Vaughan (Chair)
Fire and Rescue Authority	Jane Eyton-Jones (Chair)
Denbighshire	Ian Trigger (Chair) Gary Williams (Monitoring Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence submitted on behalf of Sioned Wyn Davies (Wrexham), Trevor Coxon (Wrexham), John Roberts (Conwy), Gareth Owens (Flintshire), Gwilym Ellis Evans (Gwynedd), Sam Soysa (Gwynedd), Rev. Wayne Roberts (Denbighshire), and Lisa Jones (Denbighshire).

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the North Wales Standards Committee Forum held on 29th April 2014 were submitted for approval.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the North Wales Standards Committee Forum held on 29th April 2014 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

3. QUESTIONS TO THE OMBUDSMAN.

The Ombudsman, Mr Nick Bennett, was in attendance to reply to the questions raised by the North Wales Standards Committee Forum. A copy of the questions and responses are attached to these minutes (attachment)

4. OPEN SESSION FOR ITEMS OF CURRENT INTEREST

A summary of the training conducted by the Isle of Anglesey County Council to the Clerks of the Isle of Anglesey Community Councils was presented by Mike Wilson, Chair of the Isle of Anglesey County Council and Awena Walkden, Solicitor to the Monitoring Officer. It was explained to the Forum that:-

1. Presenting a training session to the Clerks of the Community Councils was well received with positive feedback despite their initial reluctance to attend.
2. It was explained to the Clerks that it was part of their role to understand the Code of Conduct, and to advise the Community Councillors; this helped to encourage them to attend the training sessions.
3. Presenting training to the Community Council Clerks should reduce the number of complaints received by the Ombudsman in respect of Town and Community Councils because the Clerk should feel more confident in dealing with issues or, at least recognising the issues and seeking Monitoring Officer advice.
4. The majority of Town and Community Councils were in attendance.
5. The feedback from the training has been very positive and has led to a closer relationship between the Legal Service and the Clerks, which in turn should lead to issues being dealt with before they lead to a complaint stage.

RESOLVED: That Awena Walkden will send a copy of the training pack to the Forum for their information, and will provide a further up-date on progress in respect of the training to the Forum at its next meeting.

5. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

A suitable date for the next meeting of the Forum would be arranged at Denbighshire County Council, by Sian Harland at Conwy County Council.

RESOLVED: Sian Harland to liaise with Gary Williams in respect of inserting a date for the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 11.35am