**Consultation response form**: **WG47012**

Your name:

Organisation (if applicable):

email/telephone number:

Your address:

**Consultation Questions**

We are not seeking specific responses on all the Recommendations. This is because taking into account discussions held with stakeholders and key partners Welsh Ministers’ responses to the Recommendations include a number of suggestions for legislative change, highlights some actions which have subsequently been addressed without the need for legislation since the Report was published, some suggestions for non-legislative action and further suggestions for improvement which have been identified in discussion with stakeholders since the Report’s publication.

However, there is a general question at the end of the consultation questions where you can add your comments on the Recommendations that do not have a specific question below, or where you wish to make any other comments on the consultation document.

**Recommendation 4**

Q1. Do you agree the relevant regulations relating to the Ethical Standards Framework should be amended to align with the definitions relating to protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010, and that we should amend the definition of equality and respect in section 7 of The Conduct of Members (Principles) (Wales) Order 2001 (legislation.gov.uk)?

Yes/No: (delete as appropriate)

Comment: (Optional)

**Recommendation 10**

Q2. Should the Adjudication Panel Wales (APW) be able to issue Restricted Reporting Orders?

Yes/No: (delete as appropriate)

Comment: (Optional)

Q3. Should there be express legal provision to enable the APW to protect the anonymity of witnesses?

Yes/No: (delete as appropriate)

Comment: (Optional)

Q4. Do you support the proposed changes to the permission to appeal procedure outlined in this recommendation. If not, what alternatives would you suggest?

Yes/No: (delete as appropriate)

Comment: (Optional)

Q5. Should there be an express power for the APW to summon witnesses to appeal tribunals?

Yes/No: (delete as appropriate)

Comment: (Optional)

Q6. Should there be any changes in the procedure for referring appeals decisions back to standards committees?

Yes/No: (delete as appropriate)

Comment: (Optional)

Q7. Do you agree there should be an express provision to enable part or all of tribunal hearings to be held in private?

Yes/No: (delete as appropriate)

Comment: (Optional)

Q8. Do you agree that the requirement to provide not less than seven days’ notice of the postponement of a hearing should be retained?

Yes/No: (delete as appropriate)

Comment: (Optional)

Q9. Should there be a wider range of sanctions available to the APW, and if so, what should they be?

Yes/No: (delete as appropriate)

Comment: (Optional)

Q10a. Do you support the proposed amendments to the process for interim case tribunals outlined in this recommendation? If not, could you please explain.

Yes/No: (delete as appropriate)

Comment: (Optional)

Q10b. If you do support the changes to the process for interim case tribunals, do you agree that an intermediate arrangement should be put in place i.e., by shortening and streamlining the process for interim case tribunals in The Adjudications by Case Tribunals and Interim Case Tribunals (Wales) Regulations 2001?

If yes, do you have any suggestions as to how this process could be streamlined within the regulations?

Yes/No: (delete as appropriate)

Comment: (Optional)

Q11. Do you have any further views on the recommendations made in relation to the operation of the APW?

Yes/ No: (delete as appropriate)

Comment: (Optional)

**Recommendation 12**

Q12. Do you have any suggestions as to how work might be taken forward to raise awareness of the Ethical Standards Framework, in particular for people with protected characteristics as described in the Equality Act 2010?

Comment: (Optional)

**Other related matters outside of the Review Report**

Q13. Advertising for independent members of standards committees: Do you agree the requirement to advertise vacancies for independent members on standards committees in newspapers should be removed?

Yes/ No: (delete as appropriate)

Comment: (Optional)

Q14a. Former council employees sitting as independent members on standards committees:Do you agree that thelifelong ban on former council employees being independent members of their previous employer’s standards committee should be removed?

Yes/ No: (delete as appropriate)

Q14b. If yes, what do you think would be a suitable period of grace between employment and appointment to a standards committee, and should this be the same for all council employees, or longer for those who previously holding statutory or politically restricted posts?

Q15. Former councillors sitting as independent members on standards committees:

Do you agree that the lifelong ban on serving as an independent member on the standards committee of the council to which a councillor was elected should be removed? If yes, what do you think would be a suitable period of grace?

Yes/ No: (delete as appropriate)

Comment (Optional):

Q16. Standards committees’ summoning witnesses and sanctions: Should standards committees have the power to summon witnesses?

Yes/ No: (delete as appropriate)

Comment: (Optional)

Q17. Do you agree that the sanctions a standards committee can impose should be changed or added to?

Yes/ No: (delete as appropriate)

If yes, what sanctions would you suggest?

**Welsh language**

We would like to know your views on the effects that the above changes to the Framework and Model Code of Conduct would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

Q18. What effects do you think there would be?

Q19. How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

Q20. Please also explain how you believe the proposed amendments could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Q21. Do you have any other comments you wish to make on the matters raised in this consultation, including for those Report Recommendations where no specific question has been posed?

Yes/ No: (delete as appropriate)

Comment: (Optional)

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report.  If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick

here:

Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation. A summary of responses will be published in due course.