

Attachment 4 – Please note that due to the Welsh Government’s document management system’s storage policies, not all previous version of documents have been retained.

Version as of 02/11/2023 @ 15:46

Dear [Complaint](#)

Investigation into Conflict of Interest

Thank you for your email of the 18 October 2023 regarding appointments to the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales (NICW).

You were concerned there was a potential conflict of interest issue in both the appointment of a particular individual to NICW and the presence of that individual in NICW meetings at which policy areas in relation to clients of a particular organisation were discussed. I have consulted the Chair of the Commission, [REDACTED], the Commission secretariat and the Welsh Government’s Public Bodies Unit in preparing this response.

The appointment of 6 new Commissioners and a Deputy Chair were approved in August 2022. The appointment process had commenced with a public advert, inviting applications, issued in March of that year. There were a number of applications, all of which provided details of employment history and roles with a number of organisations in areas where NICW had an interest.

The Deputy Minister for Climate Change had responsibility for making appointments to NICW. The First Minister was not involved in the process.

The Deputy Minister for Climate Change approved the job specification for the role, and it was against the criteria set out in the specification that applicants for the post were assessed. There were several appointable candidates whom the Deputy Minister discussed with the Chair of NICW before formal offers of appointment were made to the successful applicants.

The Chair of the Commission is acutely aware of the requirement that members of the Commission should have knowledge of relevant infrastructure sectors, and this can give rise to potential conflicts. The scope for conflicts is therefore managed very carefully by the Chair, as is the requirement Commissioners should remove themselves from discussions or decisions where they have a financial interest, or where their interest might suggest a danger of bias.

In addition, officials from the NICW secretariat ensure the register of members’ interests is kept up to date and any new interests are recorded at every meeting. The meeting notes and register of interests have now been updated on the NICW and Welsh Government websites.

I hope this response deals with your concerns regarding the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales.

Yours sincerely

