

10 December 2025

Dear

## **ATISN 26370: Councillors Standards**

### **Information requested**

Thank you for your request which I received on 13<sup>th</sup> November. You asked for:

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 to the present:

1. Any correspondence (letters, emails, briefings or meeting notes) between Welsh Government officials or ministers and the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales that mention or discuss Code of Conduct cases involving Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, including the Adjudication Panel case APW/001/2020-021/CT (Councillor Kevin O'Neill).
2. Any internal Welsh Government briefing notes, submissions or lines to take prepared for ministers or officials relating to the handling, outcomes or sanctions of Merthyr Tydfil Code cases.
3. The names or roles of Welsh Government divisions responsible for liaising with the Ombudsman on councillor standards and Code matters.

### **Our response**

Information held by the Welsh Government in respect of points 1 and 2 in your request is enclosed within ***Doc 1 – Correspondence and Briefing***

1. Email between Welsh Government officials and Minister for Housing and Local Government – 31 December 2020 to 4 January 2021
2. Letter issued to Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council - 4 January 2021
3. Email from Welsh Government official to Private Secretary regarding social media post – 4 March 2021

In respect of point 3 of your request, the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales is independent of the Welsh Government as such there is no Welsh Government official with this responsibility. Interactions between officials and the Ombudsman will depend on the issue requiring discussion and will not relate to specific cases. It is not a responsibility of Welsh Government to work directly with the Ombudsman on individual code of conduct or councillor standard issues.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,

Welsh Government,  
Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ

or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner.  
The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely