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| Meeting of:   | <b>Standards Committee</b>   |
| Date of Meeting:  | <b>Thursday, 15 May 2025</b>   |
| Relevant Scrutiny Committee:  | No Relevant Scrutiny Committee   |
| Report Title:   | Applications for Dispensation  |
| Purpose of Report:  | To consider any applications for dispensation received.                        |
| Report Owner:   | Victoria Davidson, Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services. |
| Responsible Officer:  | Amy Rudman, Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer.                |
| Elected Member and Officer Consultation:  | This report does not involve any consultation with other parties.              |
| Policy Framework:   | This report is a matter for consideration by the Standards Committee.          |
| Executive Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To consider applications for dispensation.</li> <li>• Applications for dispensation that have been received in time for agenda despatch have been attached at Appendix 1 to this report.</li> <li>• Should any further applications be received prior to the meeting taking place these will be forwarded to the Committee and uploaded to the Council's website.</li> <li>• It will be a matter for the Committee to consider any late applications after the agenda for the meeting has been despatched.</li> </ul> |  |

## **Recommendation**

1. T H A T the Standards Committee consider any application(s) received to date.

## **Reason for Recommendation**

1. To comply with the regulations and obligations for the grant of dispensations to speak and vote at meetings.

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Standards Committee Grant of Dispensations (Wales) Regulations 2001 permits Members to apply to Standards Committee to speak and, if appropriate, to vote on issues which due to prejudicial interests, they may not otherwise be able to speak or vote or remain in the room.
- 1.2 In order to deal with the applications as quickly as possible, it is necessary for the Standards Committee to receive full information of the interests involved and why in the Member's opinion dispensation should be given.
- 1.3 Applicants are advised that they are also able to attend the Standards Committee meeting to present their application if they wish to do so.

### **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1 Committee is advised that prior to the meetings of the Standards Committee all Town and Community Council Clerks and Elected Members of the Vale of Glamorgan Council are reminded by Democratic Services by email of the dates of meetings and that Members should consider whether there is a need to submit an application for dispensation to the Committee.
- 2.2 Committee is requested to consider and determine the applications for dispensation from the following Councillors, as attached at Appendix 1 to this report.
  - Vale of Glamorgan Council Councillor B. Loveluck-Edwards to Speak, Vote and remain in meetings where issues are raised at meetings of the Council in respect of the Vale of Glamorgan Council 'Visit The Vale' Service.
  - Vale of Glamorgan Council Councillor B. Loveluck-Edwards to Speak, Vote and remain in meetings where issues are raised at meetings of the Council in respect of the Vale of Glamorgan Coastlands Food Bank.
  - Vale of Glamorgan Council Councillor W.A. Hennessy to Speak, Vote and remain in meetings of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Barry Town Council when matters relating to the organisation SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) are to be discussed.
- 2.3 The Standards Committee agreed that when applications for dispensation are required to be considered as a matter of urgency, the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee be provided with the

authority to consider such applications and to report to a future meeting such applications that have been agreed under this delegated authority. Since the last meeting no such applications have been received.

- 2.4** It is a matter for the Committee to consider whether to accept any late applications for dispensation received after the agenda has been despatched.

### **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1** One of the roles and functions of the Standards Committee (as detailed in the Council's Constitution) is to consider the granting of dispensations to Councillors, Co-opted Members and Church and Parent Governor Representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct.

### **4. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

- 4.1** None as a direct result of this report.

### **5. Resources and Legal Considerations**

#### **Financial**

- 5.1** None as a direct result of this report.

#### **Employment**

- 5.2** None as a direct result of this report.

#### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

- 5.3** The Council is required to comply with the Standards Committee Grant of Dispensations (Wales) Regulations 2001.

### **6. Background Papers**

Standards Committee Grant of Dispensations (Wales) Regulations 2001.

## **Circumstances When A Standards Committee May Grant Dispensations**

The Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 specifies that the Council's Standards Committee may grant dispensations under Section 81(4) of the Local Government Act 2000 where:

- (a) no fewer than half of the Members of the Council or of a committee of the Council (as the case may be) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business;
- (b) no fewer than half of the Members of the Executive of the Council (i.e. Leader and Cabinet) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business and either paragraph (d) or (e) also applies;
- (c) Members' inability to participate would upset the political balance of the Council, or any of its committees by which the business is to be considered, to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;
- (d) the nature of the Member's interest is such that the Member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the Council's business;
- (e) the interest is common to the Member and a significant proportion of the general public;
- (f) the participation of the Member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the Member's particular role or expertise;
- (g) the registerable interest relates to business, which is to be considered by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Council, and the Member's interest is not a pecuniary/financial interest;
- (h) the business relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board the Member is a member otherwise than as a representative of the Council and the Member has no other interest in that business, provided that any dispensation shall not extend to participation in any vote with respect to that business;
- (i) it appears to the Standards Committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the Council that the disability should be removed; or
- (j) it appears to the Standards Committee to be otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation. [If this circumstance is relied upon it will be required to be reviewed on a 12 month basis – Local Government (Standards Committees, Investigations, Dispensations and Referral) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 (3(1)A)]



## THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

### Application for a Dispensation to the Standards Committee under Section 2 of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001

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| Name of Councillor   | <b>Belinda Loveluck-Edwards</b>  |
| Address  | <b>c/o VOG Civic Offices</b>   |
| Name of Member's relevant Authority and Ward   | <b>Dyfan Ward</b>  |
| Nature of Dispensation sought  | <b>Dispensation to Speak, Vote and remain in meetings where issues are raised at meetings of the Council in respect of the Vale of Glamorgan Council 'Visit The Vale' Service.</b> |
| Date of meeting / issue to be discussed (if known)   | <b>Whenever the matter is to be discussed at a meeting.</b>  |
| Do you seek a dispensation just for the one meeting or for a longer period? If longer, please state a period.<br><i>(N.B. All dispensations granted expire at the next Council elections.)</i> | <b>Until the next Local Government Election in May 2027.</b>   |
| Level of dispensation sought<br><i>(i.e. to speak only or to speak and vote)</i>   | <b>To speak and vote.</b>  |
| Relevant paragraph(s) under which dispensation can be granted<br><i>(See (a) to (j) overleaf)</i>  | <b>(d) and (g).</b>  |

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| Details of the Prejudicial Interest  | <b>My Husband has a self-employed business running tourism walks and talks across the Vale of Glamorgan area. As such, he has worked with the Vale of Glamorgan Council Tourism Team as part of the 'Visit The Vale' Service and Visit Wales.</b> |
| Details of any Position of responsibility / control held on your Council (e.g. <i>Chairman / Vice-Chairman / Cabinet Member</i> )  | <b>Vice Chair of the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee.</b>   |
| Reason(s) to support the application and why you consider the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation<br><br><i>(Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)</i> | <b>This role is not prejudicial to my ability to fulfil my role as a Councillor and I am seeking dispensation as a cautionary measure. I do not have any acting role in my husband's business.</b>  |

SIGNED: BJ Loveluck-Edwards.

DATED: 25/3/25

**Each section of the form MUST be fully completed.**

**(N.B.** If you are submitting your application form electronically, without a signature, please give written permission for the receiving officer to sign the application form on your behalf. **Failure to do this will result in the application being deemed incomplete and returned to the applicant.)**

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER (IF APPROPRIATE): .....

*Please return completed form to:*  
**Democratic and Scrutiny Services, Directorate of Resources, Room 26, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,**  
**Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU**



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| Name of Councillor   | <b>Belinda Loveluck-Edwards</b>  |
| Address  | <b>c/o VOG Civic Offices</b>   |
| Name of Member's relevant Authority and Ward   | <b>Dyfan Ward</b>  |
| Nature of Dispensation sought  | <b>Dispensation to Speak, Vote and remain in meetings where issues are raised at meetings of the Council in respect of the Vale of Glamorgan Coastlands Food Bank.</b> |
| Date of meeting / issue to be discussed (if known)   | <b>Whenever the matter is to be discussed at a meeting.</b>  |
| Do you seek a dispensation just for the one meeting or for a longer period? If longer, please state a period.<br><i>(N.B. All dispensations granted expire at the next Council elections.)</i> | <b>Until the next Local Government Election in May 2027.</b>   |
| Level of dispensation sought<br><i>(i.e. to speak only or to speak and vote)</i>   | <b>To speak and vote.</b>  |
| Relevant paragraph(s) under which dispensation can be granted<br><i>(See (a) to (j) overleaf)</i>  | <b>(d), (f) and (g).</b>   |

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| Details of the Prejudicial Interest  | <b>My Husband is employed on a part time basis at the Coastlands Vale Food Bank, Barry.</b>  |
| Details of any Position of responsibility / control held on your Council (e.g. <i>Chairman / Vice-Chairman / Cabinet Member</i> )  | <b>Vice Chair of the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee.</b>  |
| Reason(s) to support the application and why you consider the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation<br><br><i>(Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)</i> | <b>My husband has only recently taken up employment with the Coastlands Vale Food Bank so I am seeking dispensation as a cautionary measure. My Husband's employment is not prejudicial to my ability to fulfil my role as a Councillor.</b> |

SIGNED: BJ Loveluck-Edwards.

DATED: 25/3/25

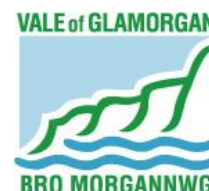
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### Application for a Dispensation to the Standards Committee under Section 2 of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Name of Councillor   | William Hennessy  |
| Address  | [REDACTED]  |
| Name of Member's relevant Authority and Ward   | Vale of Glamorgan Council - Rhoose Ward<br>Barry Town Council – Dyfan Ward  |
| Nature of Dispensation sought  | Dispensation to speak and vote in meetings of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Barry Town Council meetings when matters relating to the organisation SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) are to be discussed. |
| Date of meeting / issue to be discussed (if known)   | Whenever matters are to be discussed  |
| Do you seek a dispensation just for the one meeting or for a longer period? If longer, please state a period.<br><i>(N.B. All dispensations granted expire at the next Council elections.)</i> | Until the next Local Government elections.  |
| Level of dispensation sought<br><i>(i.e. to speak only or to speak and vote)</i>   | To speak and vote   |
| Relevant paragraph(s) under which dispensation can be granted<br><i>(See (a) to (j) overleaf)</i>  | (d) and (f)   |

|  |  |
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| Details of the Prejudicial Interest  | I have been appointed to SACRE independently from the Vale of Glamorgan Council. If I had been appointed as the Vale of Glamorgan Council's representative I would have the right to speak and vote at Council Committee meetings that I am a member.  |
| Details of any Position of responsibility / control held on your Council (e.g. <i>Chairman / Vice-Chairman / Cabinet Member</i> )  | I am a member of the Scrutiny Committee where such matters are discussed on occasions.   |
| Reason(s) to support the application and why you consider the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation<br><br><i>(Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)</i> | I am a member of the Scrutiny Committee where such matters relating to Religious Education are discussed on occasions and although I am aware I can speak at the Scrutiny Committee meetings, as the public also have the right to speak, I seek dispensation to also be able to vote on such matters for the Committee I am a member of having regard to my expertise as a member of SACRE.<br><br>Such matters could also be discussed at other meetings of the Council in particular Full Council which I am a member of. |

SIGNED: William Hennessy

DATED: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**Each section of the form MUST be fully completed.**

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