

Report 02 -21 by the Committee on Standards of Conduct to the Senedd under Standing Order 22.9

February 2022



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February 2022



About the Committee

The Committee was established on 28 June 2016. Its remit can be found at:
<https://senedd.wales/SeneddStandards-5S>

Committee Chair:



Jayne Bryant MS
Welsh Labour

Current Committee membership:



Rhun ap Iorwerth MS
Plaid Cymru



Andrew RT Davies MS
Welsh Conservatives



David J Rowlands MS*
Independent Alliance for Reform
Group

*David J Rowlands MS considered this report as a Member of the Brexit Party Group. He ceased to be a Member of the Committee on 16 October 2020 when he resigned from the Brexit Party Group. On 11 November 2020, David was elected as a Member of the Committee on behalf of the Independent Alliance for Reform Group

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Recommendations

Recommendation 1. The Committee recommends to the Senedd, in accordance with 7.12(iii) of the Procedure for Dealing with Complaints against Members of the Senedd, that a breach has been found and that the Member is censured under Standing Order 22.10..... Page 11

1. Introduction

1. The terms of reference of the Standards of Conduct Committee (“the Committee”) are set out in Standing Order 22.¹ In accordance with functions set out in Standing Order 22.2, the Committee must:

“investigate, report on and, if appropriate, recommend action in respect of any complaint referred to it by the Commissioner for Standards.”²

2. This report is made to the Senedd under Standing Order 22.9 and paragraph 8.1 of the Procedure for Dealing with Complaints against Members of the Senedd³ (“the Procedure”), in relation to a complaint made against Neil McEvoy MS.

3. The report from the Acting Commissioner for Standards (“the Commissioner”) on his investigation of the complaint is attached at Annex A. It sets out the details of the complaint and the findings of the Commissioner’s formal investigation.

4. This report sets out the details of the complaint and the way in which the Committee arrived at its recommendation.

5. Neil McEvoy MS attended the Committee on 2 February 2021 in relation to this report.

6. Prior to considering the complaint, Rhun Ap Iorwerth MS informed the Committee that previously, in an official capacity within Plaid Cymru, he had had involvement in matters relating to Neil McEvoy MS while a Member of Plaid Cymru group. The Committee noted that the circumstances in question were not directly connected with this complaint and agreed that they did not impact on the Member’s ability to act impartially in relation to this complaint.

7. At the start of the evidence session, Neil McEvoy MS objected to Rhun Ap Iorwerth MS’s participation and questioned whether Members of the Committee were impartial given the previous decisions of the Committee in relation to complaints about his conduct.

8. Standing Order 22.5 sets out that (emphasis added):

¹ Standing Orders

² Standing Order 22.2(i)

³ The Senedd’s Procedure for Dealing with Complaints Against Members of the Senedd

“Where a member of the responsible committee is subject to, or otherwise directly connected with, a complaint under Standing Order 22.2(i), he or she may take no part in any consideration of the complaint by the responsible committee. In such circumstances and in relation solely to the consideration of the complaint concerned, that member may be replaced by his or her alternate member elected in accordance with Standing Order 22.4A. The alternate member may participate in the meetings of the responsible committee to consider the complaint as if he or she were a member of it.” (Emphasis added)

9. As the Standing Order sets out, there is no provision for Members to substitute themselves unless directly related to the complaint. The Committee agreed that no Member of the Committee was directly connected with the complaint.

2. Consideration of the Complaint

10. The Commissioner's report relates to 66 complaints against the Member concerned, Neil McEvoy MS. These complaints alleged that at a meeting of the Petitions Committee on 15 September 2020, Neil McEvoy MS failed to declare an interest relevant to two petitions regarding the proposed building of the new Velindre Cancer Centre on the land known by some as the Northern Meadows or the Whitchurch Meadows ('the Meadows site').

11. The complaints engaged paragraph 9 of the Code of Conduct, which states:

“At the appropriate time in any Senedd proceedings, a Member must declare any interest, financial or otherwise, that the Member, or to their knowledge, a family member, has or is expecting to have which is relevant to those proceedings, and might reasonably be thought by others to influence the Member's contribution.”

12. The Commissioner also considered whether McEvoy's actions constituted a breach of the integrity and leadership principles in the Code.

13. The Committee met on 23 November 2020, 2 February and 11 February 2021 to consider and reach its conclusion in respect of this complaint.

14. The Committee paused consideration of the complaint during the period of Neil McEvoy MS's suspension from Senedd proceedings (9 December 2020-20 January 2021) as the Member had indicated that he wished to exercise his right to make representations to the Committee.

15. Neil McEvoy MS attended an evidence session of the Committee on 2 February 2021 to make representations in relation to this complaint.

16. At the request of Neil McEvoy MS, the Committee invited the Commissioner to attend the Committee evidence session held on 2 February 2021.

3. Committee's Consideration of its Decision

17. The Committee considered whether the Member was in breach of Standing Order 22.2(i).⁴

18. In considering whether a breach took place, the Committee reviewed the facts found by the Commissioner and set out in his report, the Commissioner's opinion that a breach had taken place, representations from Neil McEvoy MS to the Commissioner and written/oral representations to the Committee by Neil McEvoy MS.

19. Neil McEvoy MS made representations to the Committee relating to this report at the evidence session held on 2 February 2021.

20. During the evidence session Neil McEvoy referenced the contribution he made in the Petitions Committee with regards the proposed location of the new hospital, which he considered highlighted his position and therefore meant he had not reached a fixed conclusion:

“First of all, if it were just a choice between a greenfield site and a cancer hospital, and there was no other option, clearly, you would have to take the hospital.”⁵

21. However, the Committee noted that his contribution then moves onto an explanation of why he does not consider this to be the case:

“But the reality with this proposal is that that is not the case—there were and are other locations that could be suitable, or which are suitable, in fact.”⁶

22. The Commissioner refers in his report to instances of Neil McEvoy MS' public support for the Save the Northern Meadows Campaign. The Committee does not question that Neil McEvoy publicly supported the campaign, although notes that Neil McEvoy raised concerns about the Commissioner referencing multiple videos on his Social Media when he considers there was only one which related to this campaign. The Commissioner accepted the representation that one of the videos presented related to the Cardiff Council Local Development plan, and the Plasdwr

⁴ Standing order 22.2(i)

⁵ RoP 15 September Petitions Committee [para 145](#)

⁶ *ibid*

development in west Cardiff and not the Velindre development. We do not consider the number of videos material to our conclusions based on the findings by the Commissioner.

23. Neil McEvoy MS provided the Committee with a copy advice tendered to the Member in an unrelated matter by the Monitoring Officer of Cardiff Council on the question of pre-determination in taking planning decisions. The Committee was advised that the correspondence appeared to relate to decision-making by a local authority planning committee and was not a relevant consideration in the present matter. In any event, the Committee considers it a matter for the Senedd itself to determine and apply its own procedures for meetings and for declaring interests.

24. The Committee does not consider that Neil McEvoy MS gained any direct material advantage from participating in the Petition Committee proceedings. The Committee also notes that declaring a relevant interest in these circumstances does not impact on a Member's ability to participate in proceedings of the Petitions Committee.

25. The Guidance for Assembly Members on the registration, declaration and recording of financial and other interests⁷ sets out that Members have discretion to decide whether to declare a 'relevant interest', but that this requires candour on the part of a Member in deciding whether a declaration is required under this Standing Order or not.

26. The evidence presented by the Commissioner shows that Neil McEvoy MS had a position on this matter. Given that there were two petitions being considered at the meeting, one on each side of the argument, the Committee considers that the requirement for candour on the part of Neil McEvoy MS meant that he should have declared his support for the one side of the argument.

Having reviewed the report from the Acting Commissioner for Standards the Committee finds a breach of paragraph 9 of the Code of Conduct and the leadership and integrity principles by Neil McEvoy MS.

⁷ Guidance for Assembly Members on the registration, declaration and recording of financial and other interests.

Committee's Recommendation - Sanctions available

27. The Committee considers that a breach by any Member of the Senedd is a serious matter. The reputation of the Senedd as an institution, and the public's trust and confidence in it, rely upon Members demonstrating integrity and leadership by their actions.

28. As the Committee was satisfied that there was no direct financial benefit, and no restriction on participating in proceedings having declared such an interest, it considers this to be a low level breach of the Code. We would not typically expect to see such matters being presented in a report to the Committee, and instead would expect it to be dealt with under section 10 of the Complaints procedure by a Member apologising satisfactorily.

29. However, the Committee notes that Neil McEvoy MS did not acknowledge that his actions constituted a breach of the Code of Conduct and did not co-operate with the Commissioner's investigation. The Commissioner's report sets out that during the course of the investigation Neil McEvoy MS failed to answer any of the specific questions posed.

30. The failure to engage with the complaints process and to respond to the Commissioner has necessitated this report. This is a matter of regret to the Committee and was a consideration in reaching our decision on the recommended sanction.

Recommendation 1. The Committee recommends to the Senedd, in accordance with 7.12(iii) of the Procedure for Dealing with Complaints against Members of the Senedd, that a breach has been found and that the Member is censured under Standing Order 22.10.

31. A copy of this report has been provided to the Member concerned, who was also notified of the right to appeal under section 8 of the procedure.⁸

32. The Committee Chair has tabled a motion (in accordance with Standing Order 22.11 and paragraph 9.1 of the procedure) calling on the Senedd to endorse the Committee's recommendation.

⁸ The Senedd's Procedure for Dealing with Complaints Against Members of the Senedd.

Matters arising from this complaint

33. The Commissioner highlights under matters of general principle, the absence of any sanction if Members fail to co-operate with an investigation by the Commissioner⁹. The Committee is currently considering the procedure for dealing with the complaints against Members of the Senedd and will consider this matter as part of that work. The Committee notes that fully addressing this may require a legislative change to the Commissioner's powers. The Committee will consider this matter as part of its legacy work.

34. The Committee would like to remind all Members that co-operation with the Standards process, especially an investigation by the independent Standards Commissioner, is not optional nor are the timing or process a matter of preference of an individual Member. Refusal to co-operate is a breach of the Code of Conduct in itself and does nothing to build and maintain the public's trust in the Senedd.

35. We would also like to remind Members, that while there is discretion in declaring relevant interests, it is also incumbent on all Members to operate in as open and transparent a manner as possible. We encourage all Members to display candour when deciding what constitutes a relevant interest in a particular context.

36. Finally, the Committee notes the point made by the Commissioner that there is a need to formalise the circumstances, if any, in which complaints made to the Commissioner should be referred to the Llywydd. Referrals to the Llywydd or a Chair of a Committee matter will be considered in the course of our work on revising the Code of Conduct.

⁹ Commissioners report para 6.2

Annex A: Report from the Commissioner for Standards

REPORT
by
THE ACTING SENEDD COMMISSIONER FOR
STANDARDS
of the investigation of complaints by
██████████ AND 65 OTHERS
against
NEIL McEVOY MS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 On 15 September 2020, ██████████ submitted a complaint alleging that at a meeting of the Petitions Committee earlier that day Mr McEvoy had failed to declare an interest in two petitions regarding the proposed building of the new Velindre Cancer centre on the land known by some as the Northern Meadows or the Whitchurch Meadows ('the Meadows site').¹ Over the next few days a further 65 complaints about the same matter were received. This is my report of my investigation of these 66 complaints.

1.2 Two of the complainants sought anonymity. As their identity had no bearing on the matters under consideration I acceded to their requests. Another complainant also made a complaint, which I found to be inadmissible, about the failure of another Member to respond to correspondence. That complaint had no relevance to the matters under consideration and all details of it have been redacted. Other personal details have been redacted when they were of no evidential value.

1.3 Copies of the relevant documents are at Annex A. Footnote references and bookmark links are provided where appropriate. Quotations from documents are italicised.

2. THE INVESTIGATION

2.1 Receipt of the complaints were acknowledged and the complainants were asked to provide any further evidence they had which would assist me in deciding the admissibility of the complaints. In response, a number of the complainants provided further documents or links to where they could be found.

2.2 On 18 September I informed Mr McEvoy of the nature of the complaints against him and afforded him the opportunity to make representations regarding their admissibility.² In his response on 30 September he said *I did not feel I had an interest to declare, so did not declare one.*³ In that response Mr McEvoy objected to two staff members *having anything at all to do with matters concerning me.* One of these was no longer employed in my office whilst the other has had no role in relation to my investigation of these complaints other than sending a formal acknowledgement to the first complainant.

2.3 I considered whether these complaints should be referred to the Llywydd under an informal arrangement between former Commissioners and the Llywydd under which complaints made to the Commissioner about conduct in plenary or in committee were referred to the Llywydd. Having taken legal advice, I decided not to

¹ [1 - Copy of complaints and further material provided by complainants](#)

² [2 - Letter Acting Commissioner – McEvoy 18 September 2020](#)

³ [3 - Email McEvoy – Acting Commissioner 30 September 2020](#)

refer these complaints to the Llywydd. I took that decision because the legal basis for the informal agreement was unclear and because it appeared that the agreement was intended to cover only complaints about unruly conduct that occurred in the presence of the Llywydd or a Committee Chair. In such instances there would be no need for any investigation. These complaints are of a different nature and plainly require a full investigation of the extent and nature of the interest Mr McEvoy allegedly had in the subject matter of the two petitions. It appeared to me that with the investigatory powers to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents, I was better placed to carry out such an investigation than the Llywydd or the Acting Committee Chair.

2.4 On 16 October, having considered the complaints, the further information provided by some complainants and Mr McEvoy's representations, I decided that all the complaints were admissible insofar that they related to failure to declare a relevant interest in relation to the two petitions.

2.5 On 16 October I informed Mr McEvoy of my decision⁴ and sent him interrogatories which I asked him to complete and return by 30 October.⁵ I told him that if he failed to return the completed interrogatories by that date it was likely that I would proceed to draft my report. I reminded him of his duty under paragraph 15 of the Code of Conduct to co-operate with my investigation. On 28 October I reminded Mr McEvoy of the deadline for return of the completed interrogatories.⁶ Later that day, in response to Mr McEvoy's request for my definition of 'interest' I again reminded Mr McEvoy of the deadline for return of the completed interrogatories.

2.6 Mr McEvoy failed to return the completed interrogatories. Instead, shortly after expiry of the deadline, he sent an email in which he made some comments in relation to the complaints including allegations against me and my office all of which are unfounded and denied. He did not answer any of the specific questions posed in the interrogatories.⁷

2.7 I considered whether in view of Mr McEvoy's failure to answer any of the specific questions posed in the interrogatories I should require him to attend for interview. In view of the practical difficulties, the inevitable delay in completing my investigation and my belief that an interview on oath was unlikely to advance the investigation I decided against doing so. I concluded my investigation and drafted this report.

2.8 On 18 October I informed all the complainants of my decision their complaints were admissible.

⁴ [4 - Letter Acting Commissioner - McEvoy 16 October 2020](#)

⁵ [5 - Interrogatories - Neil McEvoy](#)

⁶ [6 - Letter Acting Commissioner – McEvoy 28 October 2020](#)

⁷ [7 - Email McEvoy - \[REDACTED\]](#)

3. RELEVANT PROVISIONS

3.1 Standing Order 17.24A provides –

Before taking part in any committee proceedings, a Member must declare any interest, financial or otherwise, that the Member, or to their knowledge, a family member, has or is expecting to have which is relevant to those proceedings, and might reasonably be thought by others to influence the Member's contribution.

3.2 Paragraph 9 of the Code of Conduct for Senedd Members provides –

At the appropriate time in any Senedd proceedings, a Member must declare any interest, financial or otherwise, that the Member, or to their knowledge, a family member, has or is expecting to have which is relevant to those proceedings, and might reasonably be thought by others to influence the Member's contribution.

3.3 Paragraph 4 of that Code provides, inter alia –

Members of the Senedd should observe the seven general principles of conduct identified by the Committee on Standards in Public Life. The seven principles are:

b. Integrity: *Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.*

Members of the Senedd should at all times conduct themselves in a manner which will tend to maintain and strengthen the public's trust and confidence in the integrity of the Senedd and refrain from any action which would bring the Senedd, or its Members generally, into disrepute. Members should not ask Senedd Commission or Welsh Government staff to act in any way which would compromise the political impartiality of the Civil Service and/or Senedd Commission staff or conflict with the Civil Service Code and/or the Senedd Commission Staff Code of Conduct

(g) Leadership: *Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.*

4. FACTS ESTABLISHED

4.1 I found the following facts established –

- i. Mr McEvoy was a member of the Petitions Committee that on 15 September 2020 considered petitions P-05-1001 Hold an independent inquiry into the choice of site for the proposed new Velindre Cancer Centre and P-05-1018 Support for the current proposed plans to build a new Velindre Cancer Centre, Cardiff, in any future inquiry;⁸

⁸ [8 - Minutes - Petitions Committee meeting 15 September 2020](#)

- ii. Mr McEvoy did not declare an interest with regard to either of these petitions;⁹
- iii. Both petitions related to the proposed development of the Meadows site by building on it the new Velindre Cancer Centre.¹⁰ Petition P-05-1001 opposed the development whilst petition P-05-1018 supported it;
- iv. The Save the Northern Meadows Facebook group and the Save the Whitchurch Meadows Facebook group were established with the principle aim of conserving the Meadows site and opposing building on it;¹¹
- v. For several months before that Committee meeting Mr McEvoy was shown as a member on the Facebook pages of both these campaign groups;¹²
- vi. On 20 June 2020 Mr McEvoy attended an event organised by the Save the Northern Meadows group on the Meadows site;¹³
- vii. Whilst attending that event he made a number of videos showing his presence there in which he expressed his strong opposition to the proposed building of the new Velindre Cancer Centre on that site;¹⁴
- viii. Between 20 and 30 June 2020 Mr McEvoy wrote to the Health and Environment Ministers stating that building on that site '*would not constitute development, it would constitute desecration, environmental vandalism at its worst*';¹⁵
- ix. On 30 June 2020 he caused a copy of that letter to be posted on his Facebook account;¹⁶
- x. On or about 17 July 2020 Mr McEvoy posted a video on his Facebook account in which he urged members of the public to sign his petition to end local development plans which he claimed would stop development on the green fields sites;¹⁷
- xi. In tweets on 26 and 27 August 2020 Mr McEvoy made clear his agreement with the view expressed by some medical professionals that the Meadows site was not an appropriate site for the proposed new Velindre Cancer Centre;¹⁸
- xii. At 0638 on 15 September 2020, less than four hours before the meeting of the Petitions Committee was due to start, Mr McEvoy posted on his Facebook account text expressing his concern that a new hospital would be built on the Meadows site;¹⁹

⁹ [3 - Email McEvoy – Acting Commissioner 30 September 2020](#) / [7 - Email McEvoy – \[REDACTED\]](#) / [8- Minutes - Petitions Committee meeting 15 September 2020](#)

¹⁰ [9 - Agenda – Petitions Committee 15 September 2020](#)

¹¹ [10 - Screenshot Save the Northern Meadows Facebook page](#) / [11 - Screenshot Save the Whitchurch Meadows Facebook](#)

¹² [12 - Screenshot Save the Northern Meadows - members](#) / [13 - Save the Whitchurch Meadows – members](#)

¹³ [14 - Video – McEvoy at Northern Meadows event 20 June 2020](#)

¹⁴ [14 - Video – McEvoy at Northern Meadows event 20 June 2020](#) / [15 - Video - Neil McEvoy at Northern Meadows event 20 June 2020](#)

¹⁵ [16 - Screenshot letter McEvoy – Ministers](#)

¹⁶ [16 - Screenshot letter McEvoy – Ministers](#)

¹⁷ [17 - Video – McEvoy local development plans](#)

¹⁸ [18 - Screenshot – McEvoy tweets 26 & 27 August 2020](#)

¹⁹ [19 - Screenshot – McEvoy Facebook 15 September 2020](#)

- xiii. In an email to the Acting Commissioner dated 30 September 2020 Mr McEvoy stated *I did not feel I had an interest to declare, so did not declare one;*²⁰
- xiv. Mr McEvoy failed, despite the reminders sent on 28 October, to return the completed interrogatories.

5. CONSIDERATION

5.1 The evidence in this complaint is in the form of the agenda and minutes of the meeting on 15 September, screenshots, videos and social media posts and Mr McEvoy emails to me of 30 September and 30 October. In the interrogatories he was afforded the opportunity to challenge the authenticity of any of the evidence against him. He did not avail of that opportunity. He did not challenge the authenticity of that evidence in either of his emails. I have no reason to doubt the authenticity of the screenshots, videos or social media posts.

5.2 Before finding any fact established I gave careful consideration to the contents of the two emails from Mr McEvoy in both of which he admitted that he did not declare an interest at the meeting on 15 September. In his email of 30 October he stated that *he has lodged a complaint with the Commission for Equality and Human Rights* about the direct and indirect discrimination he alleges he has experienced in his dealings with the Standards Commission process and with me. He also made a number of serious allegations against me and my office all of which are denied. None of these allegations has any relevance to whether or not Mr McEvoy failed to declare a relevant interest at the meeting on 15 September.

5.3 Mr McEvoy's email of 30 October²¹ could perhaps be regarded as his answer to Question 22 of the interrogatories which invited him to say anything else he wished to about the complaints against him. Regrettably he failed to answer any of the other 21 questions posed in the interrogatories. The closest he came to providing an answer was in relation to Questions 3 and 8. Question 3 was *Before taking your decision not to declare an interest did you seek advice from the Table Office or from any other source?* In relation to that question he stated *I am aware of the rule that I am to exercise discretion on any matter of interest and I followed that rule. I checked after the meeting and the advice giving (sic) to me on other issues was repeated. I rightly used my discretion in the meeting.* Question 8 was *Did you on 20 June 2020 attend an event organised by the Save the Northern Meadows group on the land known by some as the Whitchurch or Northern Meadows?* in relation to which he stated *I have not attended any campaign meetings in relation to the Meadows.* Mr McEvoy offered no explanation of how that statement could be squared with the

²⁰ [3 - Email McEvoy – Acting Commissioner 30 September 2020](#)

²¹ [7 - Email McEvoy – \[REDACTED\]](#)

video posted on his Facebook account showing his attendance on 22 June 2020 at an event organised by the Save the Northern Meadows group.

5.4 On the basis of the evidence before me I found established the facts set out in paragraph 4 above.

5.5 On these facts there can be no doubt that for several months prior to the Petitions Committee meeting Mr McEvoy had been a member of two groups opposed to the proposed building of the new Velindre Cancer Centre on the Meadows site and had campaigned against that proposal. He had done so by attending a campaign event, making and publishing videos, publishing his letter to Ministers and posting comments on social media. By these means he publicised his strong opposition to the proposed development. I considered the only explanation given by Mr McEvoy, namely, *I did not feel I had an interest to declare, so did not declare one*. I have had regard also to his assertion that after the meeting on 15 September he checked on whether he should have declared an interest and was given the same advice as he had been given on previous occasions. Any advice that may have been given to Mr McEvoy would, of course have been based on the information he gave to the person who provided that advice.

5.6 Against that background I cannot conceive how any reasonable person could avoid thinking that Mr McEvoy's consideration of the two petitions might be influenced by his public opposition to the proposed development. In my view it is manifestly clear that Mr McEvoy had a relevant interest in the two petitions and that he failed in his duty to declare that interest. **I am satisfied that Mr McEvoy contravened Standing Order 17.24A and paragraph 9 of the Code of Conduct.** In his email of 30 October Mr McEvoy stated *I am aware of the rule that I am to exercise discretion on any matter of interest and I followed that rule. I rightly used my discretion in the meeting*. If it is true that he was aware of the rule about declaration of relevant interest set out in Standing Order 17.24A and paragraph 9 of the Code the Committee may think his interpretation of it was extraordinary.

5.7 I have no hesitation in accepting the view expressed by a number of the complainants that by failing to declare a relevant interest at the meeting on 15 September Mr McEvoy's conduct fell well below the standard rightly expected of Members and that he failed to conduct himself in a manner which tended to maintain and strengthen the public's trust and confidence in the integrity of the Senedd and brought the Senedd into disrepute. **I am satisfied that Mr McEvoy breached the Integrity Principle.**

5.8 The Leadership Principle requires Members to promote and support the principles set out in paragraph 4 of the Code by leadership and example. The Committee may consider that far from supporting the Leadership Principle Mr

McEvoy simply ignored it. **I am satisfied that Mr McEvoy breached the Leadership Principle.**

6. MATTERS OF GENERAL PRINCIPLE

6.1 Two matters of general principle fall to be considered as a consequence of these complaints. First, there is a need to formalise the circumstances, if any, in which complaints made to the Commissioner, should be referred to the Llywydd. I understand that the Committee is to consider this matter in the course of its work on revising the Code of Conduct.

6.2 The second is the absence of any sanction for failure to co-operate with an investigation by the Commissioner. Last year I drew attention to the ineffectiveness of the provisions found in paragraph 5 of the Procedure for dealing with complaints against Assembly Members.²² Mr McEvoy's failure to co-operate with the investigation of these serious complaints against him further highlights the need for an effective way of dealing with such misconduct.

7. PROCESS

7.1 Mr McEvoy and all the complainants were provided with the final draft of this report and afforded an opportunity to comment on its factual accuracy. On 13 November Mr McEvoy submitted an email setting out what he believed were inaccuracies and omissions in my final draft report²³. He disputed the accuracy of only one of the Facts Established. I accepted his representation on that Finding and made an appropriate amendment. I responded to his other comments none of which were about factual accuracy²⁴. None of the responses received from the complainants related to factual accuracy.

7.2 A copy of the final report has today been sent to all of them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Bain', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Douglas Bain CBE TD

²² [20 - Report 01-19 to the Assembly under Standing Order 22.9 April 2019 – Gareth Bennett AM](#)













²³ [21 - Email McEvoy – Acting Commissioner 13 November 2020](#)





²⁴ [22 - Letter Acting Commissioner – McEvoy 17 November 2020](#)

Acting Senedd Commissioner for Standards

17 November 2020

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

Number	Title of evidence	Document
1.	Copy Of Complaints And Further Material Provided By Complainants	 1. Copy of complaints and furt
2.	Letter Acting Commissioner – McEvoy 18 September 2020	 2. 200918 - letter to NM.pdf
3.	Email McEvoy – Acting Commissioner 30 September 2020	 3. Re Petitions Committee.msg
4.	Letter Acting Commissioner – McEvoy 16 October 2020	 201016 - DB to NM - Complaints admissik
5.	Interrogatories – Neil McEvoy	 INTERROGATORIES.docx
6.	Letter Acting Commissioner – McEvoy 28 October 2020	 201028 DB to NM.pdf
7.	Email McEvoy – ██████████ 30 October 2020	 RE_ Private and confidential - Corre:
8.	Minutes - Petitions Committee meeting 15 September 2020	 8. Petition Minutes 15.09.20.pdf
9.	Agenda – Petitions Committee 15 September 2020	 9. Agenda 15092020 Petitions C
10.	Screenshot Save the Northern Meadows Facebook page	 10. Save the Northern Meadows
11.	Screenshot Save the Whitchurch Meadows Facebook	 11. Save the Whitchurch Meadow
12.	Screenshot Save the Northern Meadows – members	 12. Save the Northern Meadows

13.	Save the Whitchurch Meadows – members	 13. Save the Whitchurch Meadow
14.	Video – McEvoy at Northern Meadows event 20 June 2020	 NMcEvoy Twitter.mp4
15.	Video – Neil McEvoy at Northern Meadows event 20 June 2020	 NMcEvoy Facebook.mp4
16.	Screenshot letter McEvoy – Ministers	 16. Screenshots McEvoy to Ministers
17.	Video – McEvoy local development plans	Video
18.	Screenshot – McEvoy tweets 26 & 27 August 2020	  18. Tweets A.pdf 18. Tweets B.pdf
19.	Screenshot – McEvoy Facebook 15 September 2020	 19. Screenshot - McEvoy Facebook 1!
20.	Report 01-19 to the Assembly under Standing Order 22.9 April 2019 – Gareth Bennett AM	Report
21.	Email McEvoy – Acting Commissioner 13 November 2020	  Relevant Interest.msg relevant interest response.pdf
22.	Letter Acting Commissioner – McEvoy 17 November 2020	 201117 DB to NM - Final report.pdf

1. Copy of complaints and further material provided by complainants

24-20 [REDACTED]

Further to your reply to my complaint regarding Neil Mcenvoy. I firstly refer you to the Facebook group save the meadows. Mr Mcenvoy has posted a video of himself with a child in a pram on the meadow 8n which he clearly stated his opposition to velindre hospital. There are numerous posts of his on the same group clearly showing his interest and opposition to velindre hospital planning application. He is actively and vociferously campaigning against velindre cancer care. Ye this morning at the Senedd committee meeting he blatantly flouted Senedd rules.

As per section 36 Of the 2006 act for the register of members interest which requires members of the committee to orally declare any interest. Mr Mcenvoy did not. He has broken this act and used the Senedd as a platform for his own personal interest. I note that at the committee he did the majority of the talking and asked from velindre cancer care information which had already been submitted to the Senedd.

Mr Mcenvoy is Canton MP but is campaigning on his stance against Velindre.

His self serving interests break Senedd rules . This must not be allowed to continue.

[REDACTED]

28-20 [REDACTED]

Conflict of interest - Neil McEvoy

As part of the regulations it is a requirement of all MS to declare a conflict of interest .. Niel McEvoy has publicly and actively campaigned to stop the above unit being built.

- 1) *This is clearly a conflict of interest*
- 2) *He never declared is position on this matter at the committee*

This matter should be investigated and in the interest of fairness excluded for the petition hearing on thai matter

Regards

[REDACTED]

29-20 [REDACTED]

Good Afternoon,

I wish to make a complaint regarding the above assembly member. I believe that after campaigning for the new hospital in Velindre (videos are on facebook) he has today stood

*and lied stating that 30 clinicians have come forward to oppose the hospital expansion..
where is the evidence?*

He has stood there and blatantly lied for his own gain and not represented the voters, which ultimately is what everyone is there to do. Actions such as these will affect cancer patients for years to come and I think its absolutely appalling.

I trust that this issue will be looked into without bias and effectively.

Kind regards,



Supporter of the VCC expansion

30-20 

I am writing with regards to my petition which gathered 11388 signatures in a few days calling upon the government to act swiftly and that we support Velindre's decision to build on their own land .

Neil McEvoy has aligned himself to this campaign. He has done various videos in the campaign aswell.

I expressed my concerns about this before the petition committee debate. I was told he would need to declare his interest orally at the start .

Under your 2006 Act it requires members to declare any interests at the start .

Neil did not .

Infact he did the majority of speaking completely ignoring the signatures of over 11k people to talk about what he wanted . All the information he called for was actually in the information sent to the senedd in support of our petition.

The campaign Neil supports and the petition which gathered 5200 signatures is a false petition with false information which is evidenced in our response letter and that from VCC.

How is this fair and just ? Neil has just used this opportunity as a platform for himself and broke one of your own acts in the process.

It is a disgrace . He needs to be brought to account .



31-20 

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to lodge an official complaint and would like an investigation into the behaviour of Mr Neil McEvoy AM on this mornings (15/9/20) Senedd Petition Committee panel which was streamed live.

Mr McEvoy has a vested interest in the Velindre Cancer Center petition and counter petition which was on today's agenda. He has been campaigning against this development very strongly, and so was required to state a conflict of interest at the petition hearing this morning. He did not, and then continued to spout out misinformation without any evidential backup for over half an hour without anyone able to challenge him (due to other AM on the committee being impartial).

Please investigate this incident with utmost haste, as this conflict of interest is unacceptable in a petition hearing.

Regards

██████████

32-20 ██████████

How on earth is Neil Mcevoy on the committee? He has a vested interest to Save the Northern Meadows. He did most of the talking and he didn't allow Supporters of New Velindre Cancer Centre petition to be heard which has over 11000 signatures. and over 18000 members. I wish to challenge 30 Doctors he spoke about , let's hear the names of these Doctors (previously 52 when he last spoke about it in his video). How is he allowed to do this when he's got a vested interest. 2006 Act requires members of the committee to orally declare any interests - Mcevoy did not.

Kind Regards

██████████

33-20 ██████████

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures).

Neil McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these

petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it.

I am struck and disturbed by the lack of professionalism on Neil McEvoy AM's part and request that his conduct is brought to account swiftly. He must be held accountable for his behaviour and bias toward topics.

I look forward to your response.

Kind Regards

██████████

34-20 ██████████

I refer to today's meeting of the petitions Committee in relation to a petition regarding Velindre Hospital.

Today 2 opposing petitions were discussed about the proposed site of the new Velindre Hospital. Neil McEvoy has joined the Save the Northern Meadows group and is also on the committee. I raised this in an email a few weeks ago and was assured that he would declare an interest. I watched the meeting on-line and not only did he not declare an interest, he totally dominated the proceedings and none of the other participants said anything. In a letter submitted along with the supporters (as opposed to the objectors who he has aligned with) of the new build petition the points he made have been challenged, to no avail, but that was not mentioned. He has been asked to produce this document from cancer specialists who oppose the build but he hasn't seen fit to provide any evidence.

He should not have been allowed to sit on that committee especially as no one challenged him.

The whole matter has now been deferred, another delay to the new hospital that is so desperately needed.

This cannot be justified

With regards

██████████

Supporter of the new Velindre Hospital on the proposed site

Further information provided

I have attached 2 video links of Neil McEvoy supporting the Save the Northern Meadows


<https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2Fneiljmcevoy%2Fstatus%2F1274277476433362945&h=AT0x4BVqi82ELjXPxIWfrzoYyqP7lniaqriNHX0Eo2->

[0OasNbxdkOpiqvXIW0QD8Os21TMzLLVoKcuW5RPPH-DyUJoVkAoRzURQ1PIhs9QIoBEJZQNkxKEafTyl&s=1](https://www.facebook.com/neiljmcevoy/videos/597618974192010/)

<https://www.facebook.com/neiljmcevoy/videos/597618974192010/>

And also some screen shots below (please see next page)



Neil McEvoy  Save the Northern
Meadows! · [Join](#)



30 Jun · 

I asked for a call in my email pasted below to the Environment & Health Ministers.


Subject: Northern Meadows Call In

Dear Ministers,

I write with regard to Cardiff Council planning application 17/11735/MJR and all associated planning applications. The area is known as the Northern Meadows in the Cardiff North Constituency, in the South Wales Central region. You must both be aware of the issue.

I recently visited the Northern Meadows and am horrified that an area of such outstanding natural beauty will be built upon. As well as the visual attractiveness of the area, the Meadows are an oasis for wildlife in an urban setting. Building on that location would not constitute development, it would constitute desecration, environmental vandalism at its worst. Developing the site is completely contrary to the calling of a climate emergency.

I attended the public protest and spoke to people

 Filters

Posts you've seen

Most recent

Posted by

residents for whom the Meadows provide huge mental health benefits and respite from the hurly-burly of daily life. Not a single person did not want a cancer hospital.

As a Cardiffian, I am crushingly aware that we are losing so many green field spaces in our City, whether they classified as such or not according to planning regulations. I am appalled that brown field site alternatives exist for a new hospital and have not been chosen. Why not? Perhaps you could both have a conversation.

I urge the Minister for the Environment to call in the Northern Meadows planning applications and ask in the strongest possible terms that the Health Minister intervene with an honest appraisal of the current situation, with a view to enable a rapid brown field site development.

Neil McEvoy AS / MS

07974439640

Welsh National Party: Y Blaid Genedlaethol

De Cymru Canol / South Wales Central

neil.mcevoy@senedd.wales

neil.mcevoy@senedd.cymru

  98

25 comments 2 shares

I understand that he is entitled to his opinion on this matter but feel he should have declared his allegiance with the Save the Northern Meadows group. During the Petitions committee meeting he barely mentioned the Supporters of the new Velindre Build and their petition, with over 11,000 signatures, only the 5,000 signatures against. He completely dominated the proceedings, never once stating he fully supported the campaign against the build. When I heard he was on the petitions committee I emailed them to object due to his stance on the subject and received an email from the Clerk of the Petitions Committee in which they stated:

It is a matter for the individual Member themselves whether they have an interest to declare before participating in committee proceedings. I will forward the email to you separately.

This was not done which I think makes a mockery of the proceedings.

Should you wish any further comments on this matter please contact me.

With Regards

██████████

Further information provided #2 (please see below)

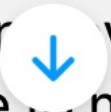
More evidence of his involvement with the Northern Meadows group

Dear Ministers,

I write with regard to Cardiff Council planning application 17/11735/MJR and all associated planning applications. The area is known as the Norther Meadows in the Cardiff North Constituency, in the South Wales Central region. You must both be aware of the issue.

I recently visited the Northern Meadows and am horrified that an area of such outstanding natural beauty will be built upon. As well as the visual attractiveness of the area, the Meadows are an

I recently visited the Northern Meadows and am horrified that an area of such outstanding natural beauty will be built upon. As well as the visual attractiveness of the area, the Meadows are an oasis for wildlife in an urban setting. Building on that location would not constitute development, it would constitute desecration, environmental vandalism at its worst. Developing the site is completely contrary to the calling of a climate emergency.

I attended the public protest and spoke to people whose lives have been  devastated by cancer. I spoke to medical

I attended the public protest and spoke to people whose lives have been devastated by cancer. I spoke to medical staff of all kinds, I conversed with local residents for whom the Meadows provide huge mental health benefits and respite from the hurly-burly of daily life. Not a single person did not want a cancer hospital.

As a Cardiffian, I am crushingly aware that we are losing so many green field spaces in our City, whether they classified as such or not according to planning regulations. I am appalled that brown field site alternatives exist for a new hospital and have not been chosen. Why

As a Cardiffian, I am crushingly aware that we are losing so many green field spaces in our City, whether they classified as such or not according to planning regulations. I am appalled that brown field site alternatives exist for a new hospital and have not been chosen. Why not? Perhaps you could both have a conversation.

I urge the Minister for the Environment to call in the Northern Meadows planning applications and ask in the strongest possible terms that the Health Minister intervene with an honest appraisal of the current situation with a view



applications and ask in the strongest possible terms that the Health Minister intervene with an honest appraisal of the current situation, with a view to enable a rapid brown field site development.

Neil McEvoy AS / MS

07974439640

Welsh National Party: Y Blaid
Genedlaethol

De Cymru Canol / South
Wales Central

neil.mcevoy@senedd.wales

35-20

Dear Commissioner

I wish to register a formal complaint against Neil McEvoy MS, who this morning gave evidence to a senedd committee and failed to register an interest in one side of a debate.

Namely he has publicly spoken against the new VCC, and failed to make the committee aware of this fact. In addition he fabricated the support from alleged experts, that do not have any clinical expertise in the field of Cancer care.

I would request that an investigation is undertaken to:

- 1. Find out why he kept secret from the committee his opposition to build a new hospital on land owned by the NHS.*
- 2. Investigate the mistruths around his assertions that the clinicians are “experts” opposing the scheme.*

I look forward to your response to my complaint.

36-20 [REDACTED]

Commissioner,

I would like to complain about a Counsellor that has been appointed to discuss the new Velindre CancerCare Hospital. petition

Neil McEvoy is named as one of the panel.

It is my understanding that if there is an interest towards the subject to be discussed that the councillor MUST declare an interest.

It seems that this has not been the case in this instance.

There are videos of Mr McEvoy on social media supporting the Northern Meadows protesters which clearly shows him in breach of the Act of 2006. I strongly object to Neil MacEvoy being allowed to be any part of this discussion

Regards

[REDACTED]

37-20 [REDACTED]

Having seen feedback from today’s committee meeting I feel I have to complain regarding the actions of Neil McEvoy who sits on the petitions committee.

I understand any interests from members should be declared orally which he did not do. I have seen video evidence on Social Media where Mr McEvoy is clearly against the building of the new hospital and therefore has an interest in opposing the petition he should have been scrutinising.

I understand from feedback that he led the talking and had he read the submissions, his speech would have been curtailed. How is he allowed to not follow process, attend unprepared and have the ability to not discuss the petition which he has made public his opposition.

This should be a transparent process within Welsh Government which is clearly being exploited for the personal views of an MS.

I feel very let down by the committee.

Your sincerely,

██████████

38-20 ██████████

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures).

Neil McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it. As an employee of Welsh Government I am struck and disturbed by the lack of professionalism on Neil McEvoy MS part and request that his conduct is brought to account swiftly. As civil servants, we must be held accountable to our behaviours and bias toward topics and this should be no different for Neil McEvoy.

I look forward to your response.

Best wishes

██████████

39-20 Complainant ██████████

Dear SIR / MADAM

I would like to register a complaint about the appointment and attendance of Mr Neil McEvoy SM at today's (15th Sept) petitions hearing regarding two petitions submitted in relation to the new Velindre Cancer Centre.

Mr McEvoy has actively campaigned in support of the 'Save the Northern Meadows Group' who oppose the building of the Velindre Cancer Centre on its chosen site. Therefore, he cannot, under any circumstances, be considered impartial in this matter and should either recuse himself or be removed from this committee forthwith. His already voiced strong

opposition to the new VCC will give a distorted view to the committee and in the spirit of fairness must not be allowed to heard as a part of this committee."

I don't believe any complaint can be strong enough in order to remove this man from having any involvement with these committee's. Please feel free to copy, paste, edit if required and post.

Regards

██████████

40-20 ██████████

With regard to the above topic presented before the Senedd today, I consider that N. McVoy is a disgrace and has brought the Senedd into disrepute, and I trust will be dealt with appropriately.

Putting aside politics, and looking at two facts; 1. I was successfully treated at Velindre 9 years ago, when it was more than obvious to me that the establishment was 'bursting at the seams'.

2. I understand, plans to improve this situation has been on going for the past 10 years but still little urgency is given to remedy the problem especially following the late intervention of activists (which includes N McVoy).

Wales needs this new facility NOW and politicians should not be playing with people's lives. Shame on those that oppose, delay or obstruct. I respectfully request the Senedd to approve the current proposals forthwith.

41-20 ██████████

I am making a specific complaint about the appointment and attendance of Mr Neil McEvoy SM at todays (15th Sept) petitions hearing regarding two petitions submitted in relation to the new Velindre Cancer Centre.

Mr McEvoy has actively campaigned in support of the 'Save the Northern Meadows Group' who oppose the building of the Velindre Cancer Centre on its chosen site. Therefore, he cannot, under any circumstances, be considered impartial in this matter and should either recuse himself or be removed from this committee forthwith. His already voiced strong opposition to the new VCC will give a distorted view to the committee and in the spirit of fairness must not be allowed to heard as a part of this committee.

Kind regards,

██████████

42-20 ██████████

To whom it may concern.

I wish to raise a complaint following the petitions committee meeting held this morning.

The 2006 Act requires members of the committee to orally declare any interests in anything being included. Neil McEvoy did not declare his very public interest in the save the northern meadows campaign which is the proposed new site for the Velindre Cancer Centre.

Neil McEvoy was very unprofessional and has broken this act, and used the platform for his own personal interest. He did the majority of talking and asked for things from VCC which were included in the information already provided to the Senedd. His claims that there are 30 Doctors from Velindre against the new model is a lie. This cannot go unchallenged.

The petition supporting the new Velindre Cancer centre had the majority of signatures yet Neil did not discuss or allow anyone else to discuss this petition. It was disgusting and the chair of the committee should have intervened. This isnt some silly petition with a few hundref signatures. It had thousands and thousands and wasnt given the time it should have been. It was a shambles.

Neil McEvoy should never have been included in the committee knowing he has a keen interest in the opposing campaign. Surely it has to be illegal. I look forward to finding out what action is being taken against him breaking the law.

Thank you.

██████████

43-20 ██████████

I refer to today's petition committee in regards to Velindre. I have sent a previous complaint with regards to Neil McEvoy and his biased opinion on the Northern Meadows. He is involved with the Save the Northern Meadows group and therefore has an interest in the meeting today. When I pointed this out a to you a few weeks ago I was assured he would need to state his involvement. I listened to the meeting this morning, there was no mention of his involvement and he totally dominated the proceedings with no challenge from anyone. The subject was then postponed to a later date. On another issue it was stated that the committee did not know what the first ministers position was on this subject. Surely someone should have found this out before the meeting.

44-20 ██████████

I refer to today's petition committee in regards to Velindre. Neil McElvoy did not declare that he is heavily involved with the Save the Northern Meadows group and therefore has an interest in the meeting today. This has been pointed out to your department a few weeks ago I was assurances made that he would need to state his involvement. I listened to the meeting this morning, there was no mention of his involvement and he totally dominated the proceedings with no challenge from anyone. The subject was then postponed to a later date.

On another issue it was stated that the committee did not know what the first ministers position was on this subject. Surely someone should have found this out before the meeting. Can this be looked into as a complaint please

Thank you [REDACTED]

45-20 [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioner

I wish to make a complaint about Mr Neil McEvoy's behaviour and intent on the Petitions Committee, regarding the Velindre application.

Firstly I understand that Mr McEvoy is supposed to divulge an interest in any petition raised at the start, this was not done! I'm sure that by now you are aware of the video he placed of himself in the Northern Meadows on his Facebook page, which proves this - therefore surely this is a blatant conflict of interest and he should have excused himself from the meeting immediately?!

I watched the Committee Meeting this morning with interest, especially with regard to Velindre Cancer Care, I was appalled to hear Mr McEvoy railroading the meeting and saying so many inaccurate 'facts'.

I know that the Supporters Petition was enhanced by facts and letters etc from both the petitioner and Velindre and these were All completely ignored, there was no mention of them at all; the only thing that was heard was Mr McEvoy stating a torrent of incorrect information and also asking for information which has already been provided; he obviously has not bothered to read but instead cherry picked his own biased 'facts' to further his case, also the other committee members seemed totally disinterested in such an important topic - after all this is a life-saving hospital that was being discussed.

I would appreciate it if you would look into this matter with some urgency, as I'm sure you can appreciate the hospital is vital to all future cancer treatments and Mr McEvoy's behaviour especially in this matter inexcusable.

I look forward to your reply

Regards

[REDACTED]

46-20 [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioner

I am deeply concerned that Neil McEvoy has been allowed to sit on the petitions committee discussing the petitions for both the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board) and the new Velindre hospital.

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice along with counter petition in support of the build to go ahead

Neil McEvoy has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online in support of the protest group. I am extremely upset that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result. How can he form an unbiased opinion when he has been extremely vocal in his opposition to the new hospital being built on the 'Northern meadows'

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it.

I believe he must be held accountable for his behaviour and blatant bias toward this project.

I look forward to your response.

██████████

47-20 ██████████

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures).

Neil McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it.

I am struck and disturbed by the lack of professionalism on Neil McEvoy AM's part and request that his conduct is brought to account swiftly. He must be held accountable for his behaviour and bias toward topics.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

██████████

48-20 ██████████

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

A recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) has been submitted and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures) was also lodged.

Neil McEvoy MS recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group.

I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion.

The support petition has now been deferred as a result of his domination of this topic at the committee meeting on the morning of 15th Sept.

Further more the narrative he shared in the meeting was factually incorrect and I assume was just an honest mistake on his part. Nevertheless it's important this is addressed and acknowledged as it may well have influenced others in their decision making process. These inaccuracies also need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

This feels very much like an abuse of his position and one I am sure you'll agree needs to be investigated as a matter of urgency.

We cannot allow the ethics of the Senedd to slip and allow it to be called in to question as a direct result of one of its elected members.

As an active voter, and someone with a keen supportive interest in the workings of Welsh Government, I am concerned this kind of approach, by an elected members, calls in to question both the professionalism and ethics of the vital cog in Welsh democracy, the Senedd.

I look forward to your response.

49-20 [REDACTED]

Dear Sir,

I wish to complain in the strongest terms about the so called "debate" which took place today concerning two petitions about the proposed new Velindre Cancer Centre.

The 2006 Act requires members of the committee to orally declare any interests. Neil McEvoy was very unprofessional and has broken this act and used it as a platform for his own personal interest . He did the majority of the talking and asked for things from VCC which were included in the information already provided to the Senedd. Neil McEvoy is part of the "Save the Meadows" Campaign and has been seen on social media at their protests, clearly supporting that cause. He cannot, under any circumstances, be considered impartial in this matter and should be removed from this committee.

The Petition in favour of the New VCC being built on the preferred site has much more support than the "Save the Meadows" petition which has many inaccuracies which were repeated by Neil McEvoy today.

There was no debate just a one sided, ill-informed speech.

Had the chairman read the papers provided with the petitions, he would have rebuffed Neils calls for more information. The information he asked for at the debate has already been provided but obviously hasn't been read by either Neil McEvoy or the Chairman.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

50-20 [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) and a

subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures).

Neil McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it. This man has blatantly abused his position in Local government.

I look forward to your response.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

51-20 [REDACTED]

I wish to register a formal complaint regarding the appointment, attendance and conduct of Mr. Neil McEvoy MS at today's (15th Sept) Petitions Committee.

Today's petition hearing related to the proposed new Velindre Cancer Centre and its proposed redevelopment location.

Mr McEvoy is currently actively involved and campaigned for the "Save the Northern Meadows" petition and this can be evidenced via social media.

Therefore he is absolutely not impartial in this matter and should have never been part of the petitions committee on this occasion.

Also, Mr McEvoy did not disclose his interest in the matter prior to the meeting starting which is required of Senedd members. He proceeded to give other members a biased, incomplete , incorrect and misleading account of the matter. He was clearly pushing his own agenda and only representing the views of the minority "save the Northern Meadows Group".

Members of the Senedd are elected by the people of Wales to represent the views of the whole of the people. They are meant to act in an impartial and ethical manner. Clearly this has not happened today and I would like the appropriate action to be taken against Neil McEvoy MS.

I look forward to your detailed response.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

52-20 [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures).

Neil McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it. I am struck and disturbed by the lack of professionalism on Neil McEvoy MS part and request that his conduct is brought to account swiftly. Public servants must be held accountable to the electorate for their behaviours and bias toward topics and this should be no different for Neil McEvoy.

I look forward to your response.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Further information provided

Hi [REDACTED]

Neil has been very vocal about his opposition to the development. He has actively posted more than one post regarding this on his Facebook page and is a member of the "Save the Northern Meadows" group on Facebook. It was this group who were responsible for producing the petition opposing the development, which was being considered as part of the petitions committee meeting where he did not disclose an interest. He has attended protests in the Meadows against the development and posted his attendance on his Facebook page. There may well be further examples if all the videos on his page etc are scrutinised.

This is more than a one off comment. I commented on the video declaring my support for the development and he replied to me challenging my opinion - this is clearly actively advocating against the development and not just sharing an opinion. Numerous similar exchanges have taken place with other people too.

If members are able to consider petitions from such a biased perspective and to disparage a petition so completely it undermines our democracy and the validity of the petitions process and petitions committee.

I look forward to hearing the outcome of your investigation.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

53-20 [REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to register a formal complaint regarding the appointment, attendance and conduct of Mr. Neil McEvoy MS at today's (15th Sept) Petitions Committee.

Today's petition hearing related to the proposed new Velindre Cancer Centre and its proposed redevelopment location.

Mr McEvoy is currently actively involved and campaigned for the "Save the Northern Meadows" petition and this can be evidenced via social media.

Therefore he is absolutely not impartial in this matter and should have never been part of the petitions committee on this occasion.

Also, Mr McEvoy did not disclose his interest in the matter prior to the meeting starting which is required of Senedd members. He proceeded to give other members a biased, incomplete , incorrect and misleading account of the matter. He was clearly working to his own agenda and only representing the views of the minority "save the Northern Meadows Group".

Members of the Senedd are elected by the people of Wales to represent the views of the whole of the people. They are also meant to act in an impartial and ethical manner. Clearly this has not happened today and I would like the appropriate action to be taken against Neil McEvoy MS.

I look forward to your detailed response.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

54-20 [REDACTED]

Dear Sir,

I write concerning this mornings 'petitions committee' meeting and in particular three matters in now wish to raise. The first two concern the presence and attitude of Neil McAvoy MS. In the first point he failed to publicly disclose that he had a particular interest and has actively campaigned on behalf of the one petitioner. Further not only did he publicly declare he had an interest in the petition, he used his position to seek information on behalf of the 1st petitioner, something he has been a vocal supporter. He then requested information that had been outlined in the petitioners campaign; a back door method to support a campaign

he is personally and closely aligned to. I am sure you will have a full recording of this event and will be able to examine a) the manner in which he took control and b) that he clearly aligned his questioning in support of the petitioner that seeks an independent review of the Velindre site. His attitude when it was announced that Velindre had notified the Senedd of the appointment of the Nuffield Trust to review the operating model demonstrated his interest and contempt.

This matter was granted planning in 2018, I do not believe the Senedd has the power to overturn the decision of Cardiff council. The petition in support of the development was glossed over by Mr McAvoy and he rudely remarked that the 'healing architecture' reference was, in his phrase confusing, because 'nobody is getting healed'. He should in my opinion perhaps research this concept and he will discover that this has not been challenged in over 30 years and is considered a route to faster recovery and with it cost savings in healthcare.. He demonstrated a scant disregard and a demeaning attitude toward a petition that had gathered circa 11,000 signatures in support of the development in a matter of a fortnight. He rode roughshod over the meeting. However, this was a blatant and underhanded way of countering a petition in favour of the development that Mr McAvoy is vehemently opposed.

I do question the appointment of [REDACTED] MS to the panel, although to a lesser extent. [REDACTED] has publicly come out in support of the petition that Mr McAvoy supports. I can understand that for reasons of impartiality that [REDACTED] could reference the fact to the committee but at the same time (just as would happen in a jury) indicate that [REDACTED] honestly believed [REDACTED] could consider the matter impartially. This brings me to the final part that although not directly connected with today's proceedings.

In connection with this development, I have never hid the fact that I believe the development should go ahead. However, I firmly believe that people should make their own decision based on facts and not lies and misrepresentation spread social media and the like. The campaign for and against this development has been divisive, but more importantly the Save The Northern Meadows campaign has frequently spread specific lies as misinformation concerning it. Some are contained in the petition and were reiterated by Mr McAvoy. This has been supported by Plaid Cymru Cardiff North & Tongwynlais. I have written a series of blogs where I challenge the lies. At no point has the STNM group ever challenged what I have sought to correct, something I find to be interesting in itself. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I expect better of the Senedd particularly when there are those who seek to undo the good work and have it abolished. This type of behaviour only lends evidence to those abolitionists.

I look forward to your early response.

Regards

[REDACTED]

55-20 [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures).

Neil McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it.

I am struck and disturbed by the lack of professionalism on Neil McEvoy AM's part and request that his conduct is brought to account swiftly. He must be held accountable for his behaviour and bias toward topics.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

56-20 [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

A recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) has been submitted and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures) was also lodged.

Neil McEvoy MS recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group.

I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion.

The support petition has now been deferred as a result of his domination of this topic at the committee meeting on the morning of 15th Sept.

Further more the narrative he shared in the meeting was factually incorrect and I assume was just an honest mistake on his part. Nevertheless it's important this is addressed and acknowledged as it may well have influenced others in their decision making process. These inaccuracies also need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

This feels very much like an abuse of his position and one I am sure you'll agree needs to be investigated as a matter of urgency.

We cannot allow the ethics of the Senedd to slip and allow it to be called in to question as a direct result of one of its elected members.

As an active voter, and someone with a keen supportive interest in the workings of Welsh Government, I am concerned this kind of approach, by an elected members, calls in to question both the professionalism and ethics of the vital cog in Welsh democracy, the Senedd.

I look forward to your response.

Best wishes

██████████

57-20 ██████████

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures).

Neil McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it. As an employee of Welsh Government I am struck and disturbed by the lack of professionalism on Neil McEvoy MS part and request that his conduct is brought to account swiftly. As civil servants, we must be held accountable to our behaviours and bias toward topics and this should be no different for Neil McEvoy.

I look forward to your response.

Best wishes

██████████

58-20 ██████████

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

A recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) has been submitted and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures) was also lodged.

Neil McEvoy MS recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group.

I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion.

The support petition has now been deferred as a result of his domination of this topic at the committee meeting on the morning of 15th Sept.

Further more the narrative he shared in the meeting was factually incorrect and I assume was just an honest mistake on his part. Nevertheless it's important this is addressed and acknowledged as it may well have influenced others in their decision making process. These inaccuracies also need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

This feels very much like an abuse of his position and one I am sure you'll agree needs to be investigated as a matter of urgency.

We cannot allow the ethics of the Senedd to slip and allow it to be called in to question as a direct result of one of its elected members.

As an active voter, and someone with a keen supportive interest in the workings of Welsh Government, I am concerned this kind of approach, by an elected members, calls in to question both the professionalism and ethics of the vital cog in Welsh democracy, the Senedd.

I look forward to your response.

Best wishes

59-20 [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioner,

I feel obliged to write to you about the concerning conduct of one of your fellow Senedd members.

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

A recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) has been submitted and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures) was also lodged. Today's petition hearing related to the proposed new Velindre Cancer Centre and its proposed redevelopment location.

Mr McEvoy is currently actively involved and campaigned for the "Save the Northern Meadows" petition and this can be evidenced via social media. He recorded himself

attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group.

Therefore he is absolutely not impartial in this matter and should have never been part of the petitions committee on this occasion.

I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion. The [2006](#) Act requires members of the committee to orally declare any interests . Neil did not.

He proceeded to give other members a biased, incomplete , incorrect and misleading account of the matter. He was clearly pushing his own agenda and only representing the views of the minority "save the Northern Meadows Group".

The support petition has now been deferred as a result of his domination of this topic at the committee meeting on the morning of 15th Sept.

Further more the narrative he shared in the meeting was factually incorrect and I assume was just an honest mistake on his part. Nevertheless it's important this is addressed and acknowledged as it may well have influenced others in their decision making process. These inaccuracies also need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Neil McEvoy was very unprofessional. He did the majority of talking and asked for things from VCC which were included in the information provided to the Senedd. Had it actually been read it would have cut down Neils speech to a sentence. His claims that there are 30 Doctors from Velindre is an out and out lie . This cannot go unchallenged.

This feels very much like an abuse of his position and one I am sure you'll agree needs to be investigated as a matter of urgency.

Members of the Senedd are elected by the people of Wales to represent the views of the whole of the people. They are meant to act in an impartial and ethical manner. Clearly this has not happened today and I would like the appropriate action to be taken against Neil McEvoy MS.

We cannot allow the ethics of the Senedd to slip and allow it to be called in to question as a direct result of one of its elected members.

As an active voter, and someone with a keen supportive interest in the workings of Welsh Government, I am concerned this kind of approach, by an elected members, calls in to

question both the professionalism and ethics of the vital cog in Welsh democracy, the Senedd.

I look forward to your response.

██████████

60-20 ██████████

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

Neil McEvoy MS recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group.

I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion. Is this not against laws/rules??

The support petition has now been deferred as a result of his domination of this topic at the committee meeting on the morning of 15th Sept.

Further more the narrative he shared in the meeting was factually incorrect and I assume was just an honest mistake on his part. Nevertheless it's important this is addressed and acknowledged as it may well have influenced others in their decision making process. These inaccuracies also need to be addressed urgently to prevent further spread of untruths and unfair debate.

This feels very much like an abuse of his position and one I am sure you'll agree needs to be investigated as a matter of urgency and punished accordingly.

A recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) has been submitted and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures) was also lodged. Why has this not been fairly communicated today? And why are conversations of such importance allowed to be factually inaccurate (total lies with no evidence or names) between the two petitions they both should've been discussed but more importantly the one with facts and evidence should've taken the presidency of topic!

We cannot allow the ethics of the Senedd to slip and allow it to be called in to question as a direct result of one of its elected members.

I am deeply concerned this kind of approach, by an elected member, calls in to question both the professionalism and ethics of the Senedd itself for allowing this behaviour. This is also not the first occasion that Neil McEvoy's professionalism and inability to look past his personal issues has been thrown into his work; and the fact it's being allowed to continue with a slap on the wrist at most is unjustifiable!

I would like to know exactly what action is going to be taken in regards to this. Please find attached the rules on such engagement and consequences expected.

Thankyou

61-20 [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures).

Neil McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it. As an employee of Welsh Government I am struck and disturbed by the lack of professionalism on Neil McEvoy MS part and request that his conduct is brought to account swiftly. As civil servants, we must be held accountable to our behaviours and bias toward topics and this should be no different for Neil McEvoy.

I look forward to your response.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

62-20 [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioner,

I would like to register a formal complaint highlighting my deep concern with the appointment, attendance and conduct of Mr Neil McEvoy MS (15th Sept 20) who is actively involved with and campaigned for the "save the Northern Meadow" petition which can be evidenced on social media. With this in mind Mr McEvoy can in no way stay impartial in this matter and should never have been part of the petitions committee on this occasion.

It troubles me that Mr McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am shocked and concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

This is been a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it.

Members of the Senedd are elected by the people of Wales to represent the views of all of the people. They are meant to act in an impartial and ethical manner I don't believe this has happened today and feel appropriate action should be taken.

I am struck and disturbed by the lack of professionalism on Mr McEvoy's part and request that his conduct is brought to account swiftly and that he is held accountable for his behaviour and bias toward topics.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

██████████

63-20 ██████████

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures).

Neil McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it.

I am struck and disturbed by the lack of professionalism on Neil McEvoy AM's part and request that his conduct is brought to account swiftly. He must be held accountable for his behaviour and bias toward topics.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

██████████

64-20 Complainant ██████████

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures).

Neil McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it.

I am struck and disturbed by the lack of professionalism on Neil McEvoy AM's part and request that his conduct is brought to account swiftly. He must be held accountable for his behaviour and bias toward topics.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards



65-20 

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures).

Neil McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it. As an employee of Welsh Government I am struck and disturbed by the lack of professionalism on Neil McEvoy MS part and request that his conduct is brought to

account swiftly. As civil servants, we must be held accountable to behaviours and bias toward topics and this should be no different for Neil McEvoy.

I look forward to your response.

Best wishes

66-20 [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures).

Neil McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it. I am struck and disturbed by the lack of professionalism on Neil McEvoy MS part (though not surprised) and request that his conduct is brought to account swiftly. As custodians of the people of Wales health, safety and progression as a country Members should be held accountable for their behaviours and bias toward topics and this should be no different for Neil McEvoy, who was clearly seen smirking at deferment of support petition and is a disgrace to Welsh Politics.

I look forward to your response

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

67-20 [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures).

Neil McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it. I am struck and disturbed by the lack of professionalism on Neil McEvoy MS part and request that his conduct is brought to account swiftly.

I look forward to your response.

Many thanks

██████████

68-20 ██████████

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

A recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) has been submitted and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures) was also lodged.

Neil McEvoy MS recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group.

I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion.

The support petition has now been deferred as a result of his domination of this topic at the committee meeting on the morning of 15th Sept.

Further more the narrative he shared in the meeting was factually incorrect and I assume was just an honest mistake on his part. Nevertheless it's important this is addressed and acknowledged as it may well have influenced others in their decision making process. These inaccuracies also need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

This feels very much like an abuse of his position and one I am sure you'll agree needs to be investigated as a matter of urgency.

We cannot allow the ethics of the Senedd to slip and allow it to be called in to question as a direct result of one of its elected members.

As an active voter, and someone with a keen supportive interest in the workings of Welsh Government, I am concerned this kind of approach, by an elected members, calls in to

question both the professionalism and ethics of the vital cog in Welsh democracy, the Senedd.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

██████████

69-20 ██████████

Dear Commissioner

I am writing following today's (15th September 2020) Petitions Committee whereby the 2 petitions regarding Velindre Cancer Centre were discussed.

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Mr Neil McAvoy has conducted himself with regard to the proposal to build a new Velindre Cancer Centre and the locally named land, Northern Meadows, which I am sure you will be aware belongs to NHS Wales Cardiff and Vale UHB.

A recent petition to the use of this land (5000 plus signatures) has been submitted and a counter petition in support of the build (11000 plus signatures) was lodged.

Mr McAvoy has filmed himself attending an arranged protect rally which he then consequently broadcast on social media platforms.

I am concerned and disappointed that he was therefore allowed to sit on the Petitions Committee as he is clearly not impartial. Whilst I have to accept that this may be allowed he did not declare an interest at the outset which is against WG Standing Orders outlined in section 36 (7). Also, from my research is against the 2006 Senydd Act.

He went on and was allowed to dominate the discussion. His behaviour and body language was disrespectful to an NHS Wales institution. Also it was clear that the information presented responding to the issues he raised was not read and I am afraid to say was ignored by all the Committee members.

I also wish to understand the role of the secretariat and the Chair for the Committee. In my view the role of the Committee Secretary should be to ensure all papers are available therefore why did no-one chance the Health and Social Care Minister for his response on the 2 petitions? I do not believe the Committee was Chaired well, as the supporting evidence (from both sides) should have been discussed in detail. As the discussion was centred around the VCC submission surely the Chair should have highlighted that these questions had been

answered in the response to the petition? Then, and only then, when these had been discussed any outstanding issues should have been referred on for future discussion.

I look forward to your detailed response to each of my individual points.

Best wishes,

██████████

70-20 ██████████

Dear Commissioner,

I am making a formal complaint and am expressing my deep concern with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

Such is my concern I have copied the Presiding Officer who I believe needs to be involved in addressing the Sennedd being brought into disrepute.

A recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) has been submitted and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures) was also lodged.

Neil McEvoy MS recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group.

I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion.

The support petition has now been deferred as a result of his domination of this topic at the committee meeting on the morning of 15th Sept.

Further more the narrative he shared in the meeting was factually incorrect. It is important this is addressed and acknowledged as it may well have influenced others in their decision making process. These inaccuracies also need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

This feels very much like an abuse of his position and one I am sure you'll agree needs to be investigated as a matter of urgency.

We cannot allow the ethics of the Senedd to slip and allow it to be called in to question as a direct result of one of its elected members.

As an active voter, and someone with a keen supportive interest in the workings of Welsh Government, I am concerned this kind of approach, by an elected members, calls in to question both the professionalism and ethics of the vital cog in Welsh democracy, the Senedd.

I look forward to your response

With regards

[REDACTED]

71-20 [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioner

I am writing following today's (15th September 2020) Petitions Committee whereby the 2 petitions regarding Velindre Cancer Centre were discussed.

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Mr Neil McAvoy has conducted himself with regard to the proposal to build a new Velindre Cancer Centre and the locally named land, Northern Meadows, which I am sure you will be aware belongs to NHS Wales Cardiff and Vale UHB.

A recent petition to the use of this land (5000 plus signatures) has been submitted and a counter petition in support of the build (11000 plus signatures) was lodged.

Mr McAvoy has filmed himself attending an arranged protect rally which he then consequently broadcast on social media platforms.

I am concerned and disappointed that he was therefore allowed to sit on the Petitions Committee as he is clearly not impartial. Whilst I have to accept that this may be allowed he did not declare an interest at the outset which is against WG Standing Orders outlined in section 36 (7). Also, from my research is against the 2006 Senydd Act.

He went on and was allowed to dominate the discussion. His behaviour and body language was disrespectful to an NHS Wales institution. Also it was clear that the information presented responding to the issues he raised was not read and I am afraid to say was ignored by all the Committee members.

I also wish to understand the role of the secretariat and the Chair for the Committee. In my view the role of the Committee Secretary should be to ensure all papers are available therefore why did no-one chance the Health and Social Care Minister for his response on the 2 petitions? I do not believe the Committee was Chaired well, as the supporting evidence (from both sides) should have been discussed in detail. As the discussion was centred around the VCC submission surely the Chair should have highlighted that these questions had been answered in the response to the petition? Then, and only then, when these had been discussed any outstanding issues should have been referred on for future discussion.

I look forward to your detailed response to each of my individual points.

Best wishes,

72-20 [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioner

I am deeply concerned that Neil McEvoy has been allowed to sit on the petitions committee discussing the petitions for both the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board) and the new Velindre hospital.

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice along with counter petition in support of the build to go ahead

Neil McEvoy has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online in support of the protest group. I am extremely upset that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result. How can he form an unbiased opinion when he has been extremely vocal in his opposition to the new hospital being built on the 'Northern meadows'

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it.

I believe he must be held accountable for his behaviour and blatant bias toward this project.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

73-20 [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures).

Neil McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these

petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it. As an employee of Welsh Government I am struck and disturbed by the lack of professionalism on Neil McEvoy MS part and request that his conduct is brought to account swiftly. As civil servants, we must be held accountable to our behaviours and bias toward topics and this should be no different for Neil McEvoy.

I look forward to your response.

Best wishes

██████████

74-20 ██████████

Dear commissioner

Could I please raise my deepest concerns that a member of the Sennedd petitions committee failed to declare an interest in one of the petitions heard on Tuesday 15th September.

Mr McEvoy has once again failed in his duty in public office to show integrity, impartiality and honesty bringing the Sennedd into disrepute.

The member is currently suspended from his role as counsellor from the City of Cardiff Council for matters relating to a previous investigation into misconduct.

Can I request a full and open investigation into this matter.

I look forward to receiving your written response of the investigations findings and your recommendations of sanctions to be imposed against the member concerned.

I look forward to your soonest response

Best wishes

██████████

75-20 ██████████

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures).

Neil McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am deeply concerned that he was allowed

to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it.

I am struck and disturbed by the lack of professionalism on Neil McEvoy AM's part and request that his conduct is brought to account swiftly. He must be held accountable for his behaviour and bias toward topics.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

██████████

76-20 ██████████

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures).

Neil McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it.

I am struck and disturbed by the lack of professionalism on Neil McEvoy AM's part and request that his conduct is brought to account swiftly. He must be held accountable for his behaviour and bias toward topics.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

██████████

concerned citizen

77-20 ██████████

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

A recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) has been submitted and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures) was also lodged.

Neil McEvoy MS recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group.

I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion.

The support petition has now been deferred as a result of his domination of this topic at the committee meeting on the morning of 15th Sept.

Further more the narrative he shared in the meeting was factually incorrect. It is important this is addressed and acknowledged as a matter of urgency, as it may well have influenced others in their decision making process.

This feels very much like an abuse of his position and one I am sure you'll agree needs to be investigated as a matter of urgency.

We cannot allow the ethics of the Senedd to slip and allow it to be called in to question as a direct result of one of its elected members.

As an active voter, and someone with a keen supportive interest in the workings of Welsh Government, I am concerned this kind of approach, by an elected members, calls in to question both the professionalism and ethics of the vital cog in Welsh democracy, the Senedd.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards



78-20 

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures).

Neil McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it.

I am struck and disturbed by the lack of professionalism on Neil McEvoy AM's part and request that his conduct is brought to account swiftly.

He must be held accountable for his behaviour and bias toward topics.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

██████████

79-20 ██████████

Dear Commissioner,

I write with regard to the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has conducted himself in relation to the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

I, and several thousand other individuals have signed a petition in support of the build to go ahead (at the time of writing it has garnered 11,000+ signatures) of a new cancer Centre.

Neil McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee. He has a clear conflict of interest in this matter and is abusing his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own political agenda at the cost of people's lives and the huge impact cancer will have upon the families of those affected.

As a widower who lost his wife aged 43 in 2017 and the sole parent to a daughter who lost her Mum at the age of 10 I have first hand experience of the devastation that cancer brings to families but also of the tremendous support that Velindre offers to those fighting and surviving cancer and those left behind. Please don't allow the blinkered views of one individual overshadow those of several thousand.

I look forward to your response.

Yours

██████████

80-20 ██████████

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'Northern Meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff & Vale Local Health Board.

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice(5000+ signatures) and a counter petition in support of the build to go ahead(11,000 + signatures).

Neil McEvoy has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group.

I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion and that the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

It is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of The Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it.As an employee of Cardiff & Vale Local Health Board Trust I am disturbed by the lack of professionalism on Neil McEvoy's part and request that his conduct is brought to account swiftly. Civil servants must be held accountable for behaviours and bias toward topics and this should be no different for Neil McEvoy.

I look forward to your response

Kind regards

██████████

81-20 ██████████

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

A recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) has been submitted and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures) was also lodged.

Neil McEvoy MS recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group.

I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion.

The support petition has now been deferred as a result of his domination of this topic at the committee meeting on the morning of 15th Sept.

Further more the narrative he shared in the meeting was factually incorrect and I assume was just an honest mistake on his part. Nevertheless it's important this is addressed and acknowledged as it may well have influenced others in their decision making process. These inaccuracies also need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

This feels very much like an abuse of his position and one I am sure you'll agree needs to be investigated as a matter of urgency.

We cannot allow the ethics of the Senedd to slip and allow it to be called in to question as a direct result of one of its elected members.

As an active voter, and someone with a keen supportive interest in the workings of Welsh Government, I am concerned this kind of approach, by an elected members, calls in to question both the professionalism and ethics of the vital cog in Welsh democracy, the Senedd.

I look forward to your response.

82-20 [REDACTED]

Subject: Neil McEvoy Senedd member Northern Meadows Whitchurch

Message Subject:

Neil McEvoy Senedd member Northern Meadows Whitchurch

Message Body:

I would like to refer this complaint to committee in regards to New Velindre build at Northern Meadows Whitchurch. I understand other complaints have been submitted to you in regards to Mr Neil McEvoy Senedd member, whose prejudice too the new Hospital build on Northern Meadows Whitchurch. A video which is going around on Facebook supporting Velindre site, which he is clearly stating he is not in favour of this build, and is clearly on the side of Save the Northern Meadows group, and therefore is prejudiced against the new hospital being built to which he as not declared that interest at any time during this process. This I believe is in breach of 2006 Act which requires members of the committee to verbally declare any interests in any matters that would bring the Senedd into disrepute. This has been aforementioned a few weeks ago by other complainant and has been assured he would need to state his involvement, that has not been done to date. In that same order any member must declare his interest before any meeting on that matter, this did not take place. This is in breach of the Senedd rules to which he as not been reprimanded. I respectfully request Mr Neil McEvoy Senedd member be requested to withdraw his support on the grounds of irregularities of Senedd Protocol.

Further information provided

You can go to Northern Meadows Tweeter Account he is there asking people to sign the petition and advertising the amount of supporters with him to stop the New Velindre Hospital. Tweeter Address: <https://twitter.com/neiljmcevoy/status/1274277476433362945>

He also states " Mr Neil McEvoy -Unfortunately, we do [REDACTED]. Cancer specialists say it's the wrong hospital in the wrong place. No emergency provision and no surgery provision. Managers say one thing, doctors another."

[REDACTED] :This will be a cancer treatment facility not acute hospital for operation for this nature would be done by surgeons in an hospital designed for this and other procedures, as you would go to a specialist for diagnosis not necessary at the same hospital.

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED]

Further information provided

You can go to Northern Meadows Tweeter Account he is there asking people to sign the petition and advertising the amount of supporters with him to stop the New Velindre Hospital. Tweeter Address:

<https://twitter.com/neiljmcevoy/status/1274277476433362945>

He also states " Mr Neil McEvoy -Unfortunately, we do [REDACTED]. Cancer specialists say it's the wrong hospital in the wrong place. No emergency provision and no surgery provision. Managers say one thing, doctors another."

██████████ :This will be a cancer treatment facility not acute hospital for operation for this nature would be done by surgeons in an hospital designed for this and other procedures, as you would go to a specialist for diagnosis not necessary at the same hospital.

Yours Faithfully

██████████

83-20 ██████████

Appalled by Neil mcevoy. He should not have sat on petitions committee given his total backing for northern meadows. He gives false information. Thank you for listening to my view.

84-20 ██████████

Dear Douglas Bain

I am writing to strongly object to the behaviour of Neil McEvoy at yesterdays committee meeting for the petitions concerning the New Cancer Centre at Whitchurch Cardiff .I understand this site at Northern Meadows has been under discussion for 5 years and all the relevant parties have had their input.Planning , I believe was granted last year ...Neil has been high profile in leading the group petitioning against the use of this site ...he has posted many videos making his position clear ...

This is a flagrant breach of the code of conduct which says Committee members should remain impartial and he very definitely has a conflict of interests in this case.His performance yesterday was used as a platform for his unsubstantiated views as to why this is not the best site available ...a quick look at the internet shows that all these other sites have been considered and found wanting.He did not mention the supporters petition of 11000 signatures and he brings the Senedd into disrepute frequently ..I hope he is stopped from further discussions ..if there are any ..as he has a very real conflict of interest ..

Your Sincerely

██████████

85-20 ██████████

Hello,

Can you please investigate and act upon the unacceptable behaviour and comments of Neil McEvoy yesterday in respect of the new Velindre Cancer Care development.

This behaviour is totally unjust and unacceptable. He didn't even mention the petition with 11k + signatures , the information given by VCC , his non declaration of his interest , contradictions of his argument for wrong model / but build on brownfield site which would still be a standalone , basically used today for his own platform of his opinion ignoring all the evidence provided and misinformation from the campaigners which was proved with VCCs evidence. Making unsubstantiated claims about the 37 VCC employees with no evidence.Showing complete disrespect to VCC laughing unprofessionally and sarcastically at the end . He needs to be held to account for this outrageous performance today wasting tax payers money .

Regards

[REDACTED]

86-20 [REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been passed your email address from the office of [REDACTED], with whom i originally lodged my complaint. His office has told me to log this issue here as your purview is the conduct of Senedd members.

I unfortunately must voice my concerns about Neil McEvoy MS and his conduct at Tuesday's petition hearing. I emailed [REDACTED]'s office a few weeks to voice my concern and was informed that, members could support one side or the other if they declare that before. I watched the session and did not hear his declaration of opposition, so surely, he is in breach of Senedd rules?

Ordinarily his omission of not being impartial would not have bothered me as i firmly believe the hospital can stand on its merits but the way he led the entire session was not right as it could have changed other members opinions without hearing the full and correct facts.

I hope this matter will be investigated as i know there are many upset voices.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

87-20 [REDACTED]

Standards Commissioner

I wish to make an official complaint against the above FM and want you to address the appearance of Neil McEvoy at the Petitions Committee meeting yesterday, Tuesday 15 September, at the Senedd regarding the Petition from Supporter's of the New Velindre Cancer Centre and from the protestors of Save the Northern Meadow.

Mr McEvoy was videoed, with the protestors, on the Northern Meadows speaking on their behalf against the building of the new Velindre Cancer Centre. The video was downloaded from Wales Online!

So, today there he is appearing as a member of the Appeals Committee. He blatantly contravened Agenda No.1 Declaration of interest! Under the 2006 Act by not declaring his interest on behalf of the protestors!

The man clearly will do anything for his own ends! This is a very serious issue for cancer sufferers and I am appalled at his unprofessional behaviour. Also, the other members would have known his action so are also contravening the 2006 Act

Yours faithfully



Further evidence provided

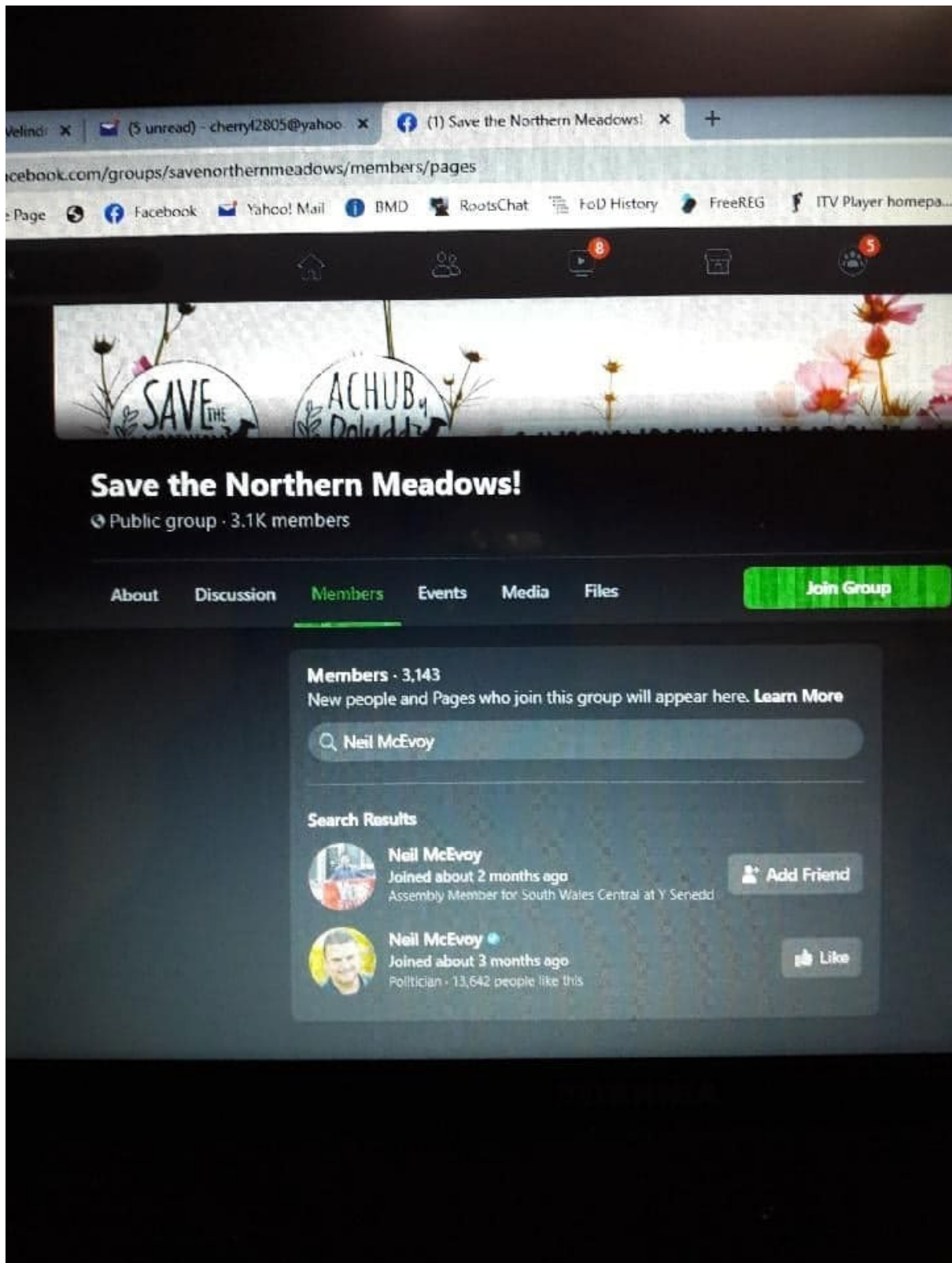
Douglas Bain CBE TD Acting Standards Commissioner

Dear Sir,

COMPLAINT AGAINST NEIL McEVOY MS

Further to your email received 8th October 2020 please find enclosed a screen shot of Save the Northern Meadows members list not once but twice. First one showing one of his memberships as a politician three months ago and second as an Assembly Member two months ago. Link as below:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/savenorthernmeadows/members>



The next piece of evidence is a live video, during lockdown, taken on the Northern Meadows, by Neil McEvoy, on 20th June 2020, As you are aware the Northern Meadows belong to the CVHB. Neil McEvoy holding a meeting with fellow campaigners. This was downloaded from Wales Online!

<https://www.facebook.com/neiljmcevoy/videos/597618974192010>

Due to the above bit of evidence I wish to make this official complaint against Neil McEvoy and wish you to address the appearance of this MS at the Petitions Committee meeting on Tuesday 15 September 2020 at the Senedd, regarding the Petition from Supporters of the New Velindre Cancer Centre and the Petition from the protesters, Save the Northern Meadow. As a member of the latter site, also a member of the Appeals Committee, he blatantly contravened Agenda No.1 Declaration of interest under the 2006 Act by not declaring his interest on behalf of the protestors!

Yours faithfully

██████████

88-20 ██████████

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures).

Neil McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it. As an employee of Welsh Government I am struck and disturbed by the lack of professionalism on Neil McEvoy MS part and request that his conduct is brought to account swiftly. As civil servants, we must be held accountable to our behaviours and bias toward topics and this should be no different for Neil McEvoy.

I look forward to your response.

Best wishes

89-20 ██████████

Dear Commissioner

I must draw your attention to the Senedd Petitions Committee of 15/09/2020 and the behaviour of Neil McEvoy MS.

Mr McEvoy MS failed to declare his interest in the campaign by the group called "Save the Northern Meadows" and its petitions. His interest in the group and its campaign and petitions are demonstrated by his own Facebook video of himself at the "Save the Northern Meadows" protest on 20/6/20

(<https://www.facebook.com/neiljmcevoy/videos/597618974192010>) in which he even promotes the signing of a petition by the group against the proposed build via his own Facebook page.

In addition to the failure of Neil McEvoy to declare an interest in the "Save the Northern Meadows" group, campaign and petition at Agenda Item 1 (Introductions, Apologies and Substitutions and Declarations of Interest), he equally failed to declare his interest at Items 6.5 & 6.6 (the agenda items for the opposing Velindre petitions). According to Section 36 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act') and 13.8A and 17.24A of the Standing Orders of the Welsh Parliament Act (2006) Mr McEvoy has an obligation to make a "declaration of relevant interests at the appropriate time during any Senedd proceedings."

I also felt the behaviour of Mr McEvoy was generally unprofessional and brought the position of Member of the Senedd in disrepute: he constantly advised the Temporary Chair that further information should be requested, when it had already been provided, in an apparent attempt to delay consideration of the petitions; he appeared to be taking prompts from mobile phone messages - the alerts could clearly be heard and he seemed distracted, looking downwards, as he tried to correct what he was saying; and he also persevered with his claim that the funding model for the new build was Private Finance Initiative (PFI), when in fact it is the Welsh Government's Mutual Investment Model (MIM). Furthermore he made no reference to the agenda item 6.6 Petition which had received more than twice the support for the new build than the petition of 6.5 which he clearly has an interest in.

Yours faithfully



90-20 

Dear Commissioner,

I am deeply concerned with the way in which Neil McEvoy MS has been conducting himself in matters regarding the locally named 'northern meadows' site (land privately owned by the Cardiff and Vale Health Board).

There has been a recent petition for an inquiry to the land choice (5,000+ signatures) and a subsequent counter petition in support of the build to go ahead (11,000+ signatures).

Neil McEvoy MS has recorded himself attending an arranged protest event and published this online for the support of the protest group. I am deeply concerned that he was allowed to continue to sit on the petitions committee without declaring any interest when these petitions were brought for discussion, and the support petition has now been deferred as a result of his steamrolling this topic at committee.

I feel this is a blatant abuse of his power as a member of the Senedd to forward his own agenda, even when it stands against more voices who support the build rather than those who are against it.

I am struck and disturbed by the lack of professionalism on Neil McEvoy AM's part and request that his conduct is brought to account swiftly. He must be held accountable for his behaviour and bias toward topics.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

██████████

91-20 ██████████

I wish to register a formal complaint regarding the appointment, attendance and conduct of Mr. Neil McEvoy MS at today's (15th Sept) Petitions Committee.

Today's petition hearing related to the proposed new Velindre Cancer Centre and its proposed redevelopment location.

Mr McEvoy is currently actively involved and campaigned for the "Save the Northern Meadows" petition and this can be evidenced via social media.

Therefore he is absolutely not impartial in this matter and should have never been part of the petitions committee on this occasion.

Also, Mr McEvoy did not disclose his interest in the matter prior to the meeting starting which is required of Senedd members. He proceeded to give other members a biased, incomplete , incorrect and misleading account of the matter. He was clearly pushing his own agenda and only representing the views of the minority "save the Northern Meadows Group".

Members of the Senedd are elected by the people of Wales to represent the views of the whole of the people. They are meant to act in an impartial and ethical manner. Clearly this has not happened today and I would like the appropriate action to be taken against Neil McEvoy MS.

I look forward to your detailed response.

Regards,

██████████

92-20 ██████████

Good afternoon Douglas,

I hope you remain well.

As advised by [REDACTED] Senedd Cymru I am forwarding my complaint to you (sent to [REDACTED] on 16th Sept 2020).

I am writing as a supporter of the new Velindre Cancer hospital and to complain as seen clearly below.

I was incredibly disappointed to hear that the debate the petitions committee were holding yesterday (15th September 2020) was deferred.

I was outraged but unfortunately not surprized by Neil McEvoy and his unprofessional behaviour using this platform for his biased and personal interest. He spoke about things that are not true or factual.

I believe that he was in fact breaking the rules of the Senedd.

Are you aware that he does indeed have an interest in this debate?

He did not express or highlight his interest. As part of the petition committee I believe under the 2006 act requires any members of committees need to orally declare any interests.

He has indeed set up a group to oppose the new VCC build. He has encouraged large gatherings in the Northern Meadows in protest during lockdown and whilst the COVID restrictions and guidelines from the Welsh government were/are in place! Will any action be taken on this matter?

The protestors have no viable solutions for their arguments against the build they continually chose to ignore fact.

Potentially their opposition could delay the build unnecessarily by 10-15 years this cannot be justified. Cancer is rapidly increasing in Wales and no time can be lost for the building of a state of the art live saving, life prolonging Cancer Centre for treatment. It is already is a wonderful place a place of hope. It houses truly amazing staff and volunteers who are continuously let down by the out of date building and facilities. The people of Wales deserve the best in Cancer care and the new VCC will provide this.

The plans have been in the public domain already and have been for years; we cannot delay the start of the build too many lives of loved ones depend on it being built now and in the future. The new VCC build on the NHS/ Trust owned meadows is the only viable location and the green surrounding is just the kind of environment Cancer patients require at the most stressful and devastating times of their and their loved ones lives. After all there will be remaining enough meadows (60%) for locals to enjoy and wildlife to thrive. We really do need to put lives over leaves.

Neil completely dominated the situation yesterday, I really cannot understand how this was permitted. The chair should have been better prepared and read all papers submitted for and against. I would of thought that the chair would have been aware of the first minsters position on this matter before the debate began.

No mention was made of the petition +11 000 signatures in support of the new build doubling the amount of signatures on the petition against - Neil blatantly lied about which is typical of his behaviour to date! No mention was made of the fact that the signatures in support were gathered in just a few days where as the petition against had to run for much longer which much less return.

You may not be aware that there is a group in excess of 18 000 members that hugely support the much needed new VCC and has over 18000 members again well over the membership of the protestors group!

Since beginning the writing of this email this morning I have since been informed that you the presiding officer at the Senedd are now having an emergency meeting due to the amount of complaints received over night!

I congratulate yourself and the Senedd for your swift response and welcome this and look forward to the outcome.

Surely Neil cannot be allowed to behave in such detrimental terms, surely he needs to be disciplined and removed from the committee immediately!

Many thanks for your time in reading this.

Kindest regards,



Strictly Confidential

By Email

Neil McEvoy MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

18 September 2020

Dear Mr McEvoy,

COMPLAINTS AGAINST YOU – FAILURE TO DECLARE A RELEVANT INTEREST

I have received a number of written complaints (69 at the time of writing) alleging that you failed to declare a relevant interest at the meeting of the Petitions Committee on 15 September in respect of the two petitions relating to the proposed Velindre Cancer Centre. It is alleged that as an active supporter of the Save the Northern Meadows Group you had such an interest. Some complainants assert that you are on the committee of the Group.

As I feel sure you know Standing Orders 13.8A and 17.2A and paragraph 9 of the Code of Conduct make provision regarding the declaration of a relevant interest.

Y Pierhead
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1NA
Ffôn: 0300 200 6539
E-bost: Comisiynydd.Safonau@senedd.cymru

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg

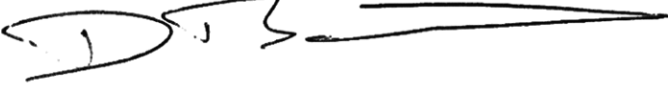
Pierhead
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA
Tel: 0300 200 6539
E-mail: Standards.Commissioner@senedd.wales

We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

2. Letter Acting Commissioner – McEvoy 18 September 2020

My first task in considering any complaint is to determine its admissibility and I am now affording you a period of 14 days from the date of this letter to make any written representations regarding the admissibility of these complaints and, in particular, whether or not you had a relevant interest in that Group.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Bain', enclosed in a light grey rectangular box.

Douglas Bain CBE TD

Y Comisiynydd Safonau Dros Dro / Acting Standards Commissioner

From: Bain, Douglas (Standards Commissioner) <Douglas.Bain@senedd.wales>
Sent: 30 September 2020 15:58
To: McEvoy, Neil (Aelod o'r Senedd | Member of the Senedd) <Neil.McEvoy@senedd.wales>
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Petitions Committee

Dear Mr McEvoy,

Thank you for your letter of 30 September to which I shall have due regard when determining the admissibility of these complaints against you.

I note your formal objection 'to [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] having anything at all to do with matters concerning note you.' [REDACTED] no longer works in my office and [REDACTED] will not be involved in either complaints you make or complaints against you until the police matters are concluded.

Yours sincerely,

Douglas Bain

From: McEvoy, Neil (Aelod o'r Senedd | Member of the Senedd) <Neil.McEvoy@senedd.wales>
Sent: 30 September 2020 15:12
To: Bain, Douglas (Standards Commissioner) <Douglas.Bain@senedd.wales>
Subject: Petitions Committee

Dear Commissioner Bain,

We are advised to declare an interest, if we feel we have an interest to declare.

I did not feel I had an interest to declare, so did not declare one.

I also formally object to [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] having anything at all to do with matters concerning me. I noted your approval for [REDACTED] to carry on working in Standards, so I would be grateful for you to note my objection.

Yours sincerely,

Neil McEvoy



Neil McEvoy MS/AS

Leader of the Welsh National Party (WNP)
Arweinydd Y Blaid Genedlaethol (YBG)

Phone | Ffon 0300 200 7434/07974 439640

Web | Wefan www.neilmcevoy.wales

Email | E-bost neil.mcevoy@senedd.wales

321 Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff, CF5 1JD



Neil McEvoy MS
BY EMAIL
Strictly Confidential

16 October 2020

Dear Mr McEvoy,

COMPLAINTS AGAINST YOU – FAILURE TO DECLARE A RELEVANT INTEREST

I write to advise you that having given careful consideration to the complaints, to further evidence provided by a number of the complainants and to your email of 30 September I have decided that all the complaints are admissible. I have now started my formal investigation of them.

You may be aware of an informal arrangement between former Commissioners and the then Llywydd under which complaints made to the Commissioner about conduct in plenary or in committee were referred to the Llywydd. Having taken legal advice, I have decided not to refer these complaints against you to the Llywydd. I have taken that decision because the legal basis for the informal agreement is unclear and in any event it appears that it was intended to cover only complaints about unruly conduct that occurred in presence of the Llywydd or Committee Chair. In such instances there would be no need for investigation. The complaints against you are of a different nature and plainly require a full investigation of the extent and nature of the interest you are alleged to have in the subject matter of the two petitions. The Commissioner, with the power to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents, is better placed to carry out such an investigation than the Llywydd or the Chair.

Y Pierhead
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1NA
Ffôn: 0300 200 6539
E-bost: Comisiynydd.Safonau@cynulliad.cymru

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg

Pierhead
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA
Tel: 0300 200 6539
E-mail: Standards.Commissioner@assembly.wales

We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

At Annex A please find a copy of each complaint, further material provided by a number of the complainants and other material found in the course of my preliminary investigation of the complaints. Two complainants sought anonymity. I am satisfied that you will not be prejudiced in any way by withholding of those persons' names which have been redacted. Another complainant complained also about the conduct of another Member. That complaint has no relevance to the complaint against you and all details of it have been redacted

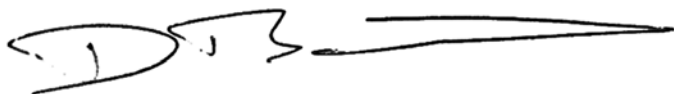
As you will see some of the complainants make a number of allegations against you. The only matter which I shall be investigating is your alleged contravention of the Standing Order 17.24A and so of paragraphs 4 and 9 of the Code of Conduct by failing, at the Petitions Committee on 15 September 2020, to declare a relevant interest in the two petitions relating to the proposed new Velindre Cancer Centre on the land known by some as the Whitchurch or Northern Meadows.

As you know my decision on admissibility is quite distinct from the decision I shall, in due course, make about whether or not you have contravened any of the provisions specified. Under section 3(2) of the National Assembly for Wales Commissioner for Standards Measure 2009 it is for me to decide how to carry out any investigation. Having considered the nature of these complaints, the further evidence provided and the need for procedural fairness I intend to proceed by way of interrogatories setting out in writing questions for you to answer in writing. It is unlikely that it will be necessary for me to interview you.

I now attach these interrogatories which I would ask you to and return **by 5pm on Friday 30 October 2020**. I am sure there is no need to remind you of your duty, under paragraph 15 of the Code of Conduct, to co-operate with my investigation. If, for any reason, you fail to return the completed interrogatories by the specified date it is likely that I shall proceed to conclude my investigation and prepare my report.

Please ensure that any email correspondence regarding these complaints, including the completed interrogatories, is sent to [REDACTED]@senedd.wales. [REDACTED] alone is supporting me in relation to these complaints.

Yours sincerely,



Douglas Bain CBE TD

Y Comisiynydd Safonau Dros Dro / Acting Standards Commissioner

INTERROGATORIES – NEIL McEVOY MS

Q1. Prior to the meeting of the Petitions Committee on 15 September 2020 were you aware of your duty under Standing Order 17.24A and paragraph 9 of the Code of Conduct to declare at an appropriate time in the committee proceedings any interest that you had which was relevant to those proceedings and which might reasonably have been thought by others to influence your contributions?

A1.

Q2. Prior to that meeting did you consider whether or not you were under a duty to declare an interest in relation to agenda item 6.5 *'P-05-1001 Hold an independent inquiry into the choice of site for the proposed new Velindre Cancer Centre'* and agenda item 6.6 *'P-05-1018 Support for the current proposed plans to build a new Velindre Cancer Centre, Cardiff, in any future inquiry'*?

A2.

Q3. Before taking your decision not to declare an interest did you seek advice from the Table Office or from any other source? If so, please provide details.

A3.

Q4. In your email to me of 30 September 2020 you stated that *'I did not feel I had an interest to declare, so did not declare one.'*

A4.

Q5. Did you have any other reason for not declaring an interest in relation to these petitions? If so, please provide details.

A5.

Q6. Does it remain your belief that you were under no duty to declare an interest in relation to agenda items 6.5 and 6.6? If not, please explain why you have changed your mind and whether you now regret your failure and will apologise for it.

A6.

Q7. Are you now, or have you ever been, a member of the Save the Northern Meadows group? If so, please provide the dates of your membership. If not, please explain why you are shown on that group's Facebook page as having been a member in your capacity as a politician since about July 2020 and in your capacity as a Member since about August 2020..

A7.

Q8. Did you on 20 June 2020 attend an event organised by the Save the Northern Meadows group on the land known by some as the Whitchurch or Northern Meadows?

A8.

Q9. Whilst attending that event did you make a number of videos showing your presence there in which you expressed your strong opposition to the proposed building of the new Velindre Cancer Centre on that site?

A9.

Q10. Was the primary purpose of making these videos to publicise your support for the Save the Northern Meadows group? If not, please detail all your purposes in making these videos.

A10.

Q11. Did you shortly thereafter cause these videos to be posted on your Facebook account?

A11.

Q12. Was the primary purpose of posting these videos on your Facebook account to publicise your support for the Save the Northern Meadows group and its opposition to the proposed building of the new Velindre Cancer Centre on that site? If not, please detail all your purposes for causing these videos to be posted on Facebook account.

A12.

Q13. Are you now, or have you ever been, a member of the Save the Whitchurch Meadows group? If so, please provide the dates of your membership. If not, please explain why you are shown on that group's Facebook page as having been a member since around June 2020.

A13.

Q14. Did you between 20 and 30 June 2020 write to the Health and Environment Ministers stating that building on the land known by some as the Whitchurch or Northern Meadows '*would not constitute development, it would constitute desecration, environmental vandalism at its worst*'?

A14.

Q15. Did you on 30 June 2020 post that letter on your Facebook account?

A15.

Q16. Was the primary purpose of posting that letter on your Facebook account to publicise your support for the Save the Northern Meadows and the Save the Whitchurch Meadows groups in their opposition to the proposed building of the new Velindre Cancer Centre on the land known by some as the Whitchurch or Northern Meadows? If not, please detail all your purposes for causing these videos to be posted on social media.

A16.

Q17. Did you on or about 17 July 2020 post a video on your Facebook account in which you urged members of the public to sign your petition to end local development plans which you claimed would stop development on the land known by some as the Whitchurch or Northern Meadows?

A17.

Q18. Did you in tweets on 26 and 27 August 2020 make clear your agreement with the view expressed by some medical professionals that the land known by some as the Whitchurch or Northern Meadows was not an appropriate site for the proposed new Velindre Cancer Centre?

A18.

Q19. Did you at 0638 on 15 September 2020, less than four hours before the meeting of the Petitions Committee was due to start, post on your Facebook account text expressing your concern that a new hospital would be built on the Northern Meadows?

A19.

Q20. Have you taken any other action to publicise your support for the Save the Northern Meadows group or the Save the Whitchurch Meadows group or your opposition to the proposed building of the new Velindre Cancer Centre on the land known by some as the Whitchurch or Northern Meadows? If so, please provide details.

A20.

Q21. Given that it appears that you –

- a) are shown on the Facebook pages of both the Save the Whitchurch Meadows group and Save the Northern Meadows group as being a member of these groups;
- b) on 20 June 2020 attended an event organised by the Save the Northern Meadows group on the land known by some as the Whitchurch or Northern Meadows;

- c) did whilst attending that event make a number of videos showing your presence there in which you expressed your strong opposition to the proposed building of the new Velindre Cancer Centre on that site;
- d) did between 20 and 30 June 2020 write to the Health and Environment Ministers stating that building on that site *'would not constitute development, it would constitute desecration, environmental vandalism at its worst'*;
- e) did on 30 June 2020 cause a copy of that letter to be posted on your Facebook account;
- f) did on or about 17 July 2020 post a video on your Facebook account in which you urged members of the public to sign your petition to end local development plans which you claimed would stop development on the land known by some as the Whitchurch or Northern Meadows;
- g) did in tweets on 26 and 27 August 2020 make clear your agreement with the view expressed by some medical professionals that the land known by some as the Whitchurch or Northern Meadows was not an appropriate site for the proposed new Velindre Cancer Centre ; and
- h) did at 0638 on 15 September 2020, less than four hours before the meeting of the Petitions Committee was due to start, post on your Facebook account text expressing your concern that a new hospital would be built on the Northern Meadows;

do you still assert that you did not have an interest in the two petitions before the Petitions Committee on 15 September 2020 as agenda items 6.5 and 6.6 which might reasonably be thought by others to influence your contribution to their consideration by that Committee? If so, please explain why.

A21.

Q22. Is there anything else you consider relevant to my investigation of these complaints against you? If so, please provide details.

A22.

I certify that the information given above is truthful and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature

Date

Neil McEvoy MS

neil.mcevoy@senedd.wales

BY EMAIL

28 October 2020

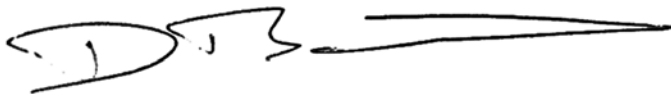
Dear Mr McEvoy,

COMPLAINTS AGAINST YOU – FAILURE TO DECLARE A RELEVANT INTEREST

I refer to my letter of 16 October and would remind you that the deadline for you to complete and return the interrogatories enclosed with that letter is **5pm this Friday, 30 October**.

Please ensure that any email correspondence regarding these complaints, including the completed interrogatories, is sent to [REDACTED] [@senedd.wales](mailto:[REDACTED]@senedd.wales) who alone is supporting me in relation to these complaints.

Yours sincerely,



Douglas Bain CBE TD

**Y Comisiynydd Safonau Dros Dro
Acting Standards Commissioner**

Y Pierhead
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CF99 1SN
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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg

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Tel: 0300 200 6224
E-mail: Standards.Commissioner@senedd.wales

We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

From: McEvoy, Neil (Aelod o'r Senedd | Member of the Senedd) <Neil.McEvoy@senedd.wales>

Sent: 30 October 2020 17:38

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Private and confidential - Correspondence from the Acting Standards Commissioner

Dear Commissioner Bain,

Firstly, I have lodged a complaint with the Commission for Equality and Human Rights about the direct and indirect discrimination I have experienced in my dealings with the Standards Commission process and in my dealings with you.

I do not find your actions or the actions of your office objective. Your office has discriminated against me directly and indirectly due to my protected characteristic.

I have no final fixed view on the issue of Velindre, hence why I did not declare an interest. I derive no more benefit than any other member of the public in relation to the decision being taken one way or the other. I have no decision making role. I see it as my job to establish all the facts, so that the whole issue is transparent.

Very few people would like to see the Meadows built upon. The main question is whether or not viable other sites exist. The quality of provision in the new proposed hospital is an also an issue for medical staff who have contacted me with concerns, but are too frightened to be public about their worries.

It is also in the public interest that all financial issues and contracts be transparent. I will not be bullied by your office into declaring an interest, when I do not feel I have an interest to declare.

The interest I have is getting the best hospital on the best site. Your investigation is an infringement on my rights as an elected member to exercise my freedom of expression.

I have not attended any campaign meetings in relation to the Meadows. I follow many things on social media to keep myself up to date.

The attention of [REDACTED], who has openly stated that she is working with my political opponent's office in Cardiff West pushed me to acquaint myself more with the issue of Velindre. I understand [REDACTED] is [REDACTED] of the project.

As with other complaints, this complaint has a party political angle, in that part of the aim is to damage me politically, in order to protect the current first Minister whom I will be challenging in the 2021 Senedd Election.

I am aware of the rule that I am to exercise discretion on any matter of interest and I followed that rule. I checked after the meeting and the advice giving to me on other issues was repeated. I rightly used my discretion in the meeting.

[REDACTED] has an official policy on Velindre, yet the [REDACTED] member on the Committee declared no interest and will face no investigation from you. I am not inferring that any interest should have been declared by that member, as that is a matter for the member's discretion, which I respect. I am rather highlighting the differential treatment I receive in comparison to others.

Yours sincerely,

Neil McEvoy MS

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 28 October 2020 15:07

To: McEvoy, Neil (Aelod o'r Senedd | Member of the Senedd) <Neil.McEvoy@senedd.wales>

Subject: RE: Private and confidential - Correspondence from the Acting Standards Commissioner

Dear Neil,

Please find attached correspondence on behalf of the Acting Standards Commissioner in relation to your email below.

With kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Office of the Standards Commissioner
Swyddfa'r Comisiynydd Safonau

[REDACTED]

From: McEvoy, Neil (Aelod o'r Senedd | Member of the Senedd) <Neil.McEvoy@senedd.wales>

Sent: 28 October 2020 11:20

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Private and confidential - Correspondence from the Acting Standards Commissioner

Dear Commissioner Bain,

I stated that I felt and feel that I had no interest to declare in relation to Velindre.

I have thought about your questions.

Could you define "interest" please? That would help me answer the questions.

Yours sincerely,
Neil McEvoy MS

From: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent: 16 October 2020 15:10

To: McEvoy, Neil (Aelod o'r Senedd | Member of the Senedd) <Neil.McEvoy@senedd.wales>

Subject: Private and confidential - Correspondence from the Acting Standards Commissioner

Importance: High

Dear Neil,

Please find attached correspondence from the Acting Standards Commissioner, for your consideration.

With kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Office of the Standards Commissioner
Swyddfa'r Comisiynydd Safonau

[REDACTED]

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 4 – Tŷ Hywel

Meeting date: Tuesday, 15 September
2020

Meeting time: 09.00 – 10.46

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/6430>

Attendance

Category	Names
Assembly Members:	Michelle Brown MS Neil McEvoy MS Jack Sargeant MS (Temporary Chair) Leanne Wood MS
Witnesses:	
Committee Staff:	Graeme Francis (Clerk) Mared Llwyd (Second Clerk) Kayleigh Imperato (Deputy Clerk)

1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from the Chair of the Committee Janet Finch–Saunders MS.

In the absence of the Chair, Jack Sargeant was appointed temporary Chair for the duration of the meeting.

The temporary Chair welcomed Members to the meeting.



2 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:

Item 3

The Committee agreed to exclude the public for the discussion of Item 3.

3 Debates on petitions – private discussion

The Committee discussed a recent increase the number of petitions collecting in excess of 5000 signatures and how it could make appropriate requests for time in Plenary. The Committee agreed to consider each petition individually and to consider grouping petitions for debate where appropriate, and requesting shorter debates if that would facilitate more petitions to be debated in Plenary.

4 New Covid-19 petitions

4.1 P-05-987 Update guidelines so family run Adult Gaming Centres qualify for Business Grants in Wales

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and in light of the fact that the Minister has no intention of changing the guidance in relation to the grants scheme, and the scheme has now closed to new applications, the Committee agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner

4.2 P-05-991 Make available a sticker stating you live in Wales

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and noted that it is clear that the Government has no intention of implementing the proposed solution. The Committee agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner for raising a valid issue.

In doing so, the Committee agreed to write back the Minister for Economy and Transport to ask how he considers addressing the wider issue highlighted by the petitioner.

4.3 P-05-993 Make retail in Wales fully accessible to disabled people

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to:

- await the publication of the Welsh Government's response to the recommendations produced by the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee, before deciding whether there is any further action that it can take; and
- ask for a legal note outlining the legislation in relation to disabled people's rights.

4.4 P-05-998 Wearing of face masks/coverings to be mandatory in shops

The Committee considered the petition for the first time alongside P-05-1005 Make sure face masks in shops do not become compulsory and agreed to:

- write back to the Minister asking for further clarification relating to concerns about enforcement and certification for those exempt from wearing face coverings; and
- close the petition in light of the fact that wearing a face covering in shops has recently been made compulsory in Wales.

4.5 P-05-1005 Make sure face masks in shops do not become compulsory

The Committee considered the petition for the first time alongside P-05-998 Wearing of face masks/coverings to be mandatory in shops and agreed to:

- write back to the Minister asking for further clarification relating to concerns about enforcement and certification for those exempt from wearing face coverings; and

- close the petition in light of the fact that wearing a face covering in shops has recently been made compulsory in Wales.

4.6 P-05-999 Implement a minimum of 1 metre social distancing in all Primary Schools in September 2020

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to await the views of the petitioner on the response from the Minister for Education before considering the petition further.

5 New Covid-19 petitions that are already resolved

5.1 P-05-994 Permit the reopening of church buildings, etc. for communal worship

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and In light of the decisions taken by the Welsh Government and the satisfaction of the petitioner, the Committee agreed to close the petition.

5.2 P-05-1004 Allow Dance Schools in Wales to re-open their indoor classes with immediate effect

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and In light of the ability for dance schools to reopen subject to following safety requirements, the Committee agreed to close the petition.

5.25 P-05-1019 Award teacher predicted grades to all Welsh students for examination 2020

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and In light of the decisions taken by the Welsh Government and the satisfaction of the petitioner, the Committee agreed to close the petition.

6 Other new petitions

6.1 P-05-974 Ensure the technology of prosthetic limbs provided within the Welsh NHS is equal to the rest of the UK

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write back to the Minister for Health and Social Services to ask for details of when the WHSSC will carry out a review of Specialised Services Service Specification: CP89 Prosthetic and Amputee Rehabilitation Services, and for an explanation of why the position in relation to access to microprocessor controlled prosthetics is different in Wales.

6.2 P-05-992 We call on the Welsh Government to create a common body of knowledge about Welsh history that all pupils will learn

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to:

- write to Business Committee to seek time for a combined plenary debate on the petition and petition P-05-1000 Make it compulsory for Black and POC UK histories to be taught in the Welsh education curriculum;
- write to the Minister for Education to ask for further details of the work being carried out to commission new resources to support the teaching of Welsh history under the new curriculum; and
- write to Estyn to ask for details of the work they will be undertaking as part of their Review of Welsh history.

6.3 P-05-1000 Make it compulsory for Black and POC UK histories to be taught in the Welsh education curriculum

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to Business Committee to seek time for a combined plenary debate on the petition and petition P-05-992 We call on the Welsh Government to create a common body of knowledge about Welsh history that all pupils will learn.

6.4 P-05-996 To call on the Welsh Government not to remove, damage or destroy any historical symbols in Wales

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to await the audit commissioned by the Welsh Government and the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee's inquiry and to inform the petitioner how to submit their views to the inquiry.

6.5 P-05-1001 Hold an independent inquiry into the choice of site for the proposed new Velindre Cancer Centre

The Committee considered for the petition for the first time alongside P-05-1018 Support for the current proposed plans to build a new Velindre Cancer Centre, Cardiff, in any future inquiry and agreed to:

- write again to the Minister for Health and Social Services to seek a response to the petitions, as well as in relation to concerns recently expressed over the clinical model;
- write to the Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee to ask whether that committee intends to conduct any work into this matter;
- write to Velindre University NHS Trust to ask a number of further questions with regards to the Transforming Cancer Services programme; and
- write to cancer leads in each health board in Wales to seek their views on the model proposed.

6.6 P-05-1018 Support for the current proposed plans to build a new Velindre Cancer Centre, Cardiff, in any future inquiry

The Committee considered for the petition for the first time alongside P-05-1018 Support for the current proposed plans to build a new Velindre Cancer Centre, Cardiff, in any future inquiry and agreed to:

- write again to the Minister for Health and Social Services to seek a response to the petitions, as well as in relation to concerns recently expressed over the clinical model;
- write to the Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee to ask whether that committee intends to conduct any work into this matter;
- write to Velindre University NHS Trust to ask a number of further questions with regards to the Transforming Cancer Services programme; and
- write to cancer leads in each health board in Wales to seek their views on the model proposed.

6.7 P-05-1002 Apply stamp duty holiday to all house purchases in Wales

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and in light of the response to the petition provided by the Minister for Finance and the forthcoming Plenary debate on the relevant Welsh Government Regulations where individual members can ask questions, the Committee agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

6.8 P-05-1003 Demand an EIA now on the dumping of radioactively contaminated mud in Welsh waters

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to Business Committee to seek time for a Plenary debate on the issue.

7 Updates to previous Covid-19 petitions

7.1 P-05-962 An emergency amendment to extend age of entitlement to additional educational support from 25 to 26 and to define within Government guidance the Covid 19 pandemic as an exceptional circumstance

The Committee considered further updates on the petition and noted the information provided by the Minister for Education about the Welsh Government's communication with specialist FE colleges and the extension requests approved to date.

Whilst acknowledging the petitioner's concerns about the guidance, which go wider than the petition, the Committee agreed to close the petition.

4.8 P-05-967 Welsh Government to amend its NDR relief policy to help keep Debenhams stores open in Wales

Following the Plenary debate held on the petition on 8 July 2020, the further information provided by the Minister and the petitioner's indication that he has no further comments to add, the Committee agreed to close the petition.

4.9 P-05-970 Ask the Senedd to reconsider their decision not to support Zoos & Aquariums with emergency funding

The Committee considered an update on the petition and, given that the Welsh Government have indicated the previous and ongoing support to zoos and aquaria, and that this is being kept under review, agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

4.10 P-05-981 Allow gyms and leisure centres to reopen

The Committee considered the petition alongside P-05-986 Allow small gyms and personal training spaces to open sooner during COVID restrictions and agreed that, as indoor gyms have now been allowed to reopen and the Deputy Minister has provided information about the scientific advice used to inform decisions, agreed to close the petitions.

4.11 P-05-986 Allow small gyms and personal training spaces to open sooner during COVID restrictions

The Committee considered the petition alongside P-05-981 Allow gyms and leisure centres to reopen and agreed that, as indoor gyms have now been allowed to reopen and the Deputy Minister has provided information about the scientific advice used to inform decisions, to close the petitions.

4.12 P-05-979 Adopt the policies of UK government with regard to easing of lockdown rules

Given that there is little further action that the Committee could usefully take, the Committee agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

4.13 P-05-983 Give grant aid to Bed and Breakfast businesses in Wales that pay council tax and not business rates

In light of the decisions that have been made by the Welsh Government on the eligibility criteria for support the Committee agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner, as there is little further the Committee could do in relation to the specific circumstances faced by this business.

4.14 P-05-984 Stop discriminatory remote consultations for incinerator applications during the Covid-19 Pandemic

The Committee agreed to write back to the Minister for Housing and Local Government to ask for details of the criteria used in considering whether to agree an extension to the timescales associated with consultation or submission requirements at the full application stage for Developments of National Significance.

4.15 P-05-985 Provide key-worker childcare equivalent to what was available prior to the Covid-19 pandemic

The Committee agreed to write back to the Minister for Education to state that further consideration needs to be given to the availability of childcare for children of key workers during core working hours in any future lockdowns, and share the petitioner's views about how local authorities should approach future school closures or lockdowns.

4.16 P-05-988 Give key worker children equal access to their schools and teachers

The Committee agreed to write back to the Minister for Education to ask whether more specific guidance would be provided to schools about the inclusion of children who also need to use key worker childcare, in the event of any future phased reopening of schools.

Agenda – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Video Conference via Zoom

Meeting date: 15 September 2020

Meeting time: 09.00

For further information contact:

Graeme Francis – Committee Clerk

Kayleigh Imperato – Deputy Clerk

0300 200 6565373

Petitions@senedd.wales

In accordance with Standing Order 34.19, the Chair has determined that the public are excluded from the Committee's meeting in order to protect public health. This meeting will be broadcast live on www.senedd.tv

- 1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest
09:00 (Pages 1 – 45)
- 2 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:

Item 2
- 3 Debates on petitions – private discussion
(Pages 46 – 49)
- 4 New Covid-19 petitions
09.15
 - 4.1 P-05-987 Update guidelines so family run Adult Gaming Centres qualify for Business Grants in Wales
(Pages 50 – 57)
 - 4.2 P-05-991 Make available a sticker stating you live in Wales
(Pages 58 – 60)
 - 4.3 P-05-993 Make retail in Wales fully accessible to disabled people
(Pages 61 – 70)



The following two items will be considered together (4.4 and 4.5):

- 4.4 P-05-998 Wearing of face masks/coverings to be mandatory in shops
(Pages 71 – 75)
- 4.5 P-05-1005 Make sure face masks in shops do not become compulsory
(Pages 76 – 78)
- 4.6 P-05-999 Implement a minimum of 1 metre social distancing in all Primary Schools in September 2020
(Pages 79 – 86)

5 New Covid-19 petitions that are already resolved

- 5.1 P-05-994 Permit the reopening of church buildings, etc. for communal worship
(Pages 87 – 90)
- 5.2 P-05-1004 Allow Dance Schools in Wales to re-open their indoor classes with immediate effect
(Pages 91 – 94)
- 5.3 P-05-1019 Award teacher predicted grades to all Welsh students for examination 2020
(Pages 95 – 98)

6 Other new petitions

- 6.1 P-05-974 Ensure the technology of prosthetic limbs provided within the Welsh NHS is equal to the rest of the UK
(Pages 99 – 109)
- 6.2 P-05-992 We call on the Welsh Government to create a common body of knowledge about Welsh history that all pupils will learn
(Pages 110 – 122)
- 6.3 P-05-1000 Make it compulsory for Black and POC UK histories to be taught in the Welsh education curriculum
(Pages 123 – 133)

6.4 P-05-996 To call on the Welsh Government not to remove, damage or destroy any historical symbols in Wales
(Pages 134 – 140)

The following two items will be considered together (6.5 and 6.6):

6.5 P-05-1001 Hold an independent inquiry into the choice of site for the proposed new Velindre Cancer Centre
(Pages 141 – 160)

6.6 P-05-1018 Support for the current proposed plans to build a new Velindre Cancer Centre, Cardiff, in any future inquiry
(Pages 161 – 165)

6.7 P-05-1002 Apply stamp duty holiday to all house purchases in Wales
(Pages 166 – 175)

6.8 P-05-1003 Demand an EIA now on the dumping of radioactively contaminated mud in Welsh waters
(Pages 176 – 205)

7 Updates to previous Covid-19 petitions

7.1 P-05-962 An emergency amendment to extend age of entitlement to additional educational support from 25 to 26 and to define within Government guidance the Covid 19 pandemic as an exceptional circumstance
(Pages 206 – 210)

7.2 P-05-967 Welsh Government to amend its NDR relief policy to help keep Debenhams stores open in Wales
(Pages 211 – 215)

7.3 P-05-970 Ask the Senedd to reconsider their decision not to support Zoos & Aquariums with emergency funding
(Pages 216 – 218)

The following two items will be considered together (7.4 and 7.5):

- 7.4 P-05-981 Allow gyms and leisure centres to reopen
(Pages 219 – 222)
- 7.5 P-05-986 Allow small gyms and personal training spaces to open sooner during COVID restrictions
(Pages 223 – 226)
- 7.6 P-05-979 Adopt the policies of UK government with regard to easing of lockdown rules
(Pages 227 – 231)
- 7.7 P-05-983 Give grant aid to Bed and Breakfast businesses in Wales that pay council tax and not business rates
(Pages 232 – 233)
- 7.8 P-05-984 Stop discriminatory remote consultations for incinerator applications during the Covid-19 Pandemic
(Pages 234 – 238)
- 7.9 P-05-985 Provide key-worker childcare equivalent to what was available prior to the Covid-19 pandemic
(Pages 239 – 247)
- 7.10 P-05-988 Give key worker children equal access to their schools and teachers
(Pages 248 – 254)

Save the Northern Meadows!

Public group

About

Discussion

Members

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Join this group to post and comment.

About this group

Description


Welcome to Save the Northern Meadows, a community driven campaign working to save the northern meadows and ensure communities in Whitchurch and Cardiff have a voice in decision making regarding their local area.

Sign the newest petition: <https://forms.gle/LsGxL18fC82KsVd2A>

Find and OBJECT to planning applications 20/01481/MJR and 20/01515/MJR HERE: <https://planningonline.cardiff.gov.uk/online-applications/>. Find out more information on what to say when you're objecting on our facebook page!

JOIN US on the 5th of September to call for justice now for all disenfranchised communities across Cardiff!

HISTORY

 Group created on 5 March 2020

[See more](#)

English (UK) · English (US) · Polski · Español · Português (Brasil)



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Save Whitchurch meadows

Public group · 808 members

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Discussion

Members

Events

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Files

Join Group



About this group

This is a public group to see if anything can be done to stop any development on the Whitchurch hospital meadows. Although this land belongs to the Cardiff and vale nhs trust it is a green field site and one of the few remaining green spaces in Whitchurch.

<http://savewhitchurchmeadows.weebly.com/> See less



Public

Anyone can see who's in the group and what they post



Visible

Anyone can find this group.



Whitchurch, Cardiff, United Kingdom



Save the Northern Meadows!

Public group · 3.1K members

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Members · 3,143

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Search Results



Neil McEvoy

Joined about 2 months ago
Assembly Member for South Wales Central at Y Seriedd

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Neil McEvoy

Joined about 3 months ago
Politician · 13,642 people like this

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Save Whitchurch meadows

Public group · 792 members

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Members · 792

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Neil McEvoy

Joined about 4 months ago

Assembly Member for South Wales Central at Y Senedd



Add Friend

Links to recordings:

Recording 1:

<https://business.senedd.wales/documents/s116599/Recording%201%20Saesneg%20yn%20unig.mp4>

Recording 2:

<https://business.senedd.wales/documents/s116600/Recording%202%20Saesneg%20yn%20unig.mp4>

16. Screenshots letter McEvoy – Ministers

A screenshot of a Facebook post by Neil McEvoy. The post is titled "Save the Northern Meadows!" and includes a "Join" button. The text of the post is a letter addressed to the Environment & Health Ministers, discussing a planning application in Cardiff and expressing concern about the impact of development on the Northern Meadows area.

 **Neil McEvoy**  [Save the Northern Meadows!](#) [Join](#) 30 Jun ·  ***

I asked for a call in my email pasted below to the Environment & Health Ministers.

Subject: Northern Meadows Call In

Dear Ministers,

I write with regard to Cardiff Council planning application 17/11735/MJR and all associated planning applications. The area is known as the Northern Meadows in the Cardiff North Constituency, in the South Wales Central region. You must both be aware of the issue.

I recently visited the Northern Meadows and am horrified that an area of such outstanding natural beauty will be built upon. As well as the visual attractiveness of the area, the Meadows are an oasis for wildlife in an urban setting. Building on that location would not constitute development, it would constitute desecration, environmental vandalism at its worst. Developing the site is completely contrary to the calling of a climate emergency.

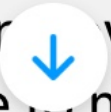
I attended the public protest and spoke to people

Dear Ministers,

I write with regard to Cardiff Council planning application 17/11735/MJR and all associated planning applications. The area is known as the Norther Meadows in the Cardiff North Constituency, in the South Wales Central region. You must both be aware of the issue.

I recently visited the Northern Meadows and am horrified that an area of such outstanding natural beauty will be built upon. As well as the visual attractiveness of the area, the Meadows are an

I recently visited the Northern Meadows and am horrified that an area of such outstanding natural beauty will be built upon. As well as the visual attractiveness of the area, the Meadows are an oasis for wildlife in an urban setting. Building on that location would not constitute development, it would constitute desecration, environmental vandalism at its worst. Developing the site is completely contrary to the calling of a climate emergency.

I attended the public protest and spoke to people whose lives have been  devastated by cancer. I spoke to medical

I attended the public protest and spoke to people whose lives have been devastated by cancer. I spoke to medical staff of all kinds, I conversed with local residents for whom the Meadows provide huge mental health benefits and respite from the hurly-burly of daily life. Not a single person did not want a cancer hospital.

As a Cardiffian, I am crushingly aware that we are losing so many green field spaces in our City, whether they classified as such or not according to planning regulations. I am appalled that brown field site alternatives exist for a new hospital and have not been chosen. Why

As a Cardiffian, I am crushingly aware that we are losing so many green field spaces in our City, whether they classified as such or not according to planning regulations. I am appalled that brown field site alternatives exist for a new hospital and have not been chosen. Why not? Perhaps you could both have a conversation.

I urge the Minister for the Environment to call in the Northern Meadows planning applications and ask in the strongest possible terms that the Health Minister intervene with an honest appraisal of the current situation with a view



applications and ask in the strongest possible terms that the Health Minister intervene with an honest appraisal of the current situation, with a view to enable a rapid brown field site development.

Neil McEvoy AS / MS

07974439640

Welsh National Party: Y Blaid
Genedlaethol

De Cymru Canol / South
Wales Central

neil.mcevoy@senedd.wales



Neil McEvoy MS  @neiljmcevoy · Aug 26 ⋮

Cancer specialists tell me it's the wrong medical model, in the wrong place. A stand alone hospital at the Heath site with emergency beds & surgery capability is what is needed.



[Show replies](#)



Neil McEvoy MS  @neiljmcevoy · Aug 27 

Unfortunately, we do Jo. Cancer specialists say it's the wrong hospital in the wrong place. No emergency provision and no surgery provision. Managers say one thing, doctors another.



[Show replies](#)



Neil McEvoy ✓

@neilmcevoy

16K followers

Dad. Husband. Leader of the WNP. Member of the Senedd (Welsh Parliament) for South Wales Central....

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Followed by 16,791 people

ZW



Neil McEvoy ✓

15 September at 06:38 · 🌐

NEW VELINDRE: 57 doctors, many in cancer care, are saying that the proposed hospital is not fit for purpose. 34 consultants and senior nurses from VELINDRE have written expressing serious concerns also. The new build will not include surgery facilities and will not include emergency care facilities. Doctors tell me that this will mean that cutting edge treatments will not be available. Therefore, we are investing in a hospital at the behest of managers and accountants, which will not provide the best service for our families and possibly any one of us in the future. The hospital will also build by the Mutual Investment Model (MIM), this means we could end up paying 4 times the amount (figures from MIM model in Scotland) and then not own the hospital at the end of the lease. I am also concerned that the hospital will be built on the Northern Meadow, whilst the brown field Whitchurch hospital site will be sold for housing. We all support a new cancer hospital. I want the best one in the right place.

👍👎👏 212

289 comments 87 shares

Like Share ...



Kim Rodd

8 October at 05:42 🌐

Vicky Conroy this is the guy i was telling u about hope he can help if not point u in right direction x

👍 1



Jodi Anderson

3 October at 01:57 🌐

📄 Can everyone please sign and share this petition to get all cardiff ... See more



Suzie Atkinson

21 September at 14:56 🌐

See more of Neil McEvoy on Facebook

Log In

or

Create New Account

Dear Commissioner Bain,

The following are my comments on inaccuracies and omissions from your draft report regarding my alleged failure to declare a relevant interest, which I continue to dispute.

FACTS OMITTED

My formal statements on the Committee

In your report you seem to have omitted and fail to mention the fact of what I actually said during the Committee meeting of 15th of September. Either you have failed to check the record of the meeting or have chosen to selectively keep that information out of your report.

If you do check the transcript you will see that in my opening remarks - Paragraph 145 – I state formally, on the record:

“First of all, if it were just a choice between a greenfield site and a cancer hospital, and there was no other option, clearly, you would have to take the hospital.”

The remainder of my contribution is essentially that:

- (1) I did not oppose a cancer hospital
- (2) I wanted to know about alternative sites
- (3) I wanted to know about the PFI aspect.

Your omission of the facts of what I actually said seems significant when the Standards of Conduct Committee comes to review your report. Were I to have to have a *private* interest, as you claim, then it would seem curious that I would make such a formal statement on the record, supporting a new cancer hospital and on the Northern Meadows if no other site was appropriate. In presenting the facts you claim to have established you ought to present a balanced picture. And the fact is that my formal position during the committee meeting contradicts your assertion of me having a private interest.

‘MEMBERSHIP’ OF FACEBOOK GROUPS

You claim in Point IV of your facts established that I am a member of two Facebook groups. Such an assertion is inaccurately misleading. Membership of Facebook groups is not the same as membership of say a political party or an NGO. You are not beholden to any standing orders, or any aims. Being in an open Facebook group that is public for anyone to join does not tie any person into having a private interest to that group. Nor does it imply any activity in those groups. While many Facebook groups impose rules and conditions on entry that a person must consent to, no such rules or conditions are in place for the Northern Meadows groups.

Joining such groups does not imply an endorsement of the group’s aims and does nothing other than lead to that group’s posts appearing in your Facebook feed. It would seem another inaccurate omission that you have not stated that these are public, open Facebook groups that any member of the public can join and which do not impose any rules, conditions or expectations on entry. I notice, for example, that [REDACTED] MP is a ‘member’ of the Save the Northern Meadows group on Facebook. I would not presume that to mean that she has a private interest towards the group, in the same way as it does not for me.

In addition you seem to have made no attempt to contact the actual Save the Northern Meadows campaign group to ascertain the facts from them. I am very surprised by this. It has led to an

incredibly one sided report where you have chosen to rely on coordinated complaints from a campaign group led by [REDACTED], whose [REDACTED] for the new Velindre project. You have not provided information that the complaints were coordinated, nor stated the clear financial interest that the chief complainant has in the project.

Had you contacted the Save the Northern Meadows campaign you would know that I have played no active role at all in that campaign, as can be seen in Annex 1. In an email from [REDACTED], who is one of the lead campaigners, [REDACTED] states the following:

‘I would like to confirm for the standards committee that Mr. McEvoy has categorically never been involved with the save the northern meadows campaign. He has never attended any meetings on zoom, with our core team, outreach team, or legal team, where we decide what actions or strategies we take. He has never read a planning application or contributed ideas for opposition, and neither have we asked him to. Rather, he is a member of a facebook group - as is [REDACTED], and likely every other elected representative in the Senedd - and has attended one protest, where he came without our prior knowledge with [REDACTED].

‘Here, he met community members who discussed the issue with him. I met him for maybe two minutes to say I started the campaign and I was happy to see him attend as our elected representative. He spent the rest of the time discussing the issues with individuals from our community. This event was also attended by [REDACTED], and local councillor [REDACTED]. Both of these individuals have also been mercilessly attacked by [REDACTED] and her campaign as a result. **I do not believe bullies should be granted such a strong role in deciding who is able to contribute to public life. Clearly this commissioner does not agree.**’

In paragraph 5.5 you claim I was an ‘active member of two groups opposed to the proposed building of the new Velindre Cancer Centre’. But in your ‘facts’ established you show no evidence at all that I was an ‘active’ member of any groups opposed to the development. You merely observe that I was ‘shown as a member of the Facebook pages’ of two groups. As I’ve demonstrated above this does not imply any kind of activity. And as the campaign group, that you did not seek evidence from, have stated above I have categorically never been involved with the save the northern meadows campaign. If you are going to assert that I am an active member of those campaigns then you need to provide evidence.

DISPUTED FACT

In ‘fact’ X of your report you assert:

‘On or about 17 July 2020 Mr McEvoy posted a video on his Facebook account in which he urged members of the public to sign his petition to end local development plans which he claimed would stop development on the Meadows site;’

I make absolutely no mention of the Meadows site in the video nor am I at any time in the vicinity of the Northern Meadows. I am in the green fields in the west of Cardiff. The Northern Meadows is not part of Cardiff’s Local Development Plan and so scrapping Cardiff’s LDP would make no difference at all to the proposals for the Northern Meadows. This ‘fact’ is simply wrong and leads me to believe that you have not actually watched the video and must be incorrectly taking this claim from the complainants.

EXCEEDING THE 2009 MEASURE

Your functions as Standards Commissioner, as mandated under the 2009 Measure, are to include:

- (a) to receive any complaint that the conduct of an Assembly Member has, at a relevant time, failed to comply with a requirement of a relevant provision,
- (b) to investigate any such complaint in accordance with the provisions of this Measure,
- (c) to report to the Assembly the outcome of any such investigation,

As has seemed to have become a habit with Standards Commissioners in Wales you appear to have exceeded this measure. Rather than investigating and presenting facts to the Senedd you make subjective judgements and present them as facts. In Paragraph 5.6 you claim:

‘If it is true that he was aware of the rule about declaration of relevant interest set out in Standing Order 17.24A and paragraph 9 of the Code his interpretation of it was extraordinary.’

I find such hyperbolic, leading and subjective statements to be wholly unprofessional. Surely it is your aim to present an investigation of facts for the Committee to make a balanced judgement of.

Furthermore, in Paragraph 5.9 you state:

‘Far from promoting or supporting the principles of Integrity and Honesty Mr McEvoy ignored them.’

Again you present this as fact. But it is not a fact that I ignored the principles of integrity and honesty. That is your subjective opinion based on an investigation where you yourself completely ignored the Save the Northern Meadows group and relied on coordinated complaints by the pressure group seeking to build on the Northern Meadows site. In doing so you are acting as a judge, rather than an investigator. Perhaps you feel it is not my position to make judgements and tell you how to do your job, but that is precisely what you are doing with me.

FAILURE TO PROVIDE FULL DETAILS OF SENEDD GUIDANCE ON DECLARING RELEVANT INTERESTS

Whilst quoting standing orders in your report you have made another inaccurate omission by failing to provide the guidance that the Senedd provides to its members. You quote Standing Order 17.24A but fail to include the later provision in the Standing Orders, under Section 2.1 Paragraph 103, which states:

‘103. Standing Orders 13.8A and 17.24A provide Members with discretion to decide whether an interest which the Member or family member has or is expecting to have is a 'relevant interest'. As with expected future interests therefore, candour from Members is essential in deciding whether a declaration is required under this Standing Order or not.’¹

My understanding of discretion is that it means: ‘the freedom to decide what should be done in a particular situation’.

Having asked for further clarification from the Clerk of the Petitions Committee on what constitutes a relevant interest the Clerk wrote to me that he is ‘not able to provide a definition of a ‘relevant

¹ <https://senedd.wales/en/memhome/code-conduct-mem/Pages/mem-reg-declaration.aspx>

interest'. He goes on to state that 'It is a matter for Members' judgement whether or not something constitutes an interest which should be declared in a meeting.'

It is unclear why you chose to only include one part of the standing orders and omit the part which clearly states that declaring an interest is at my discretion as a Member of the Senedd. My interpretation of these standing orders is that it is for MSs to decide whether they have an interest to declare and that the system relies on our integrity in doing so. The Clerk of the Committee states that it is for Members to use their judgement. I believe I acted with integrity and in good faith. I was open to both sides of the argument; wanting a new cancer hospital, but in the best location and acted honestly and in good faith, as my statements on the record show.

I also feel you should make clear in your report that the declaration of a relevant interest has no bearing on an MS's ability to take part in committee proceedings, to vote in those proceedings or even to make a casting vote. Had I have declared a relevant interest my participation in the meeting would have been exactly the same. You also fail to state that the Petitions Committee has no decision making role at all with regards to whether or not the cancer hospital will be built or the site that it will be built on. It is a committee that scrutinises petitions and so it is clear that I was not in a quasi-judicial role.

As such I feel it would not be possible for me to have fettered my discretion and so it was for me to use my discretion and judgment in deciding whether or not I had a relevant interest using my own candour and had I have declared an interest it would have not in any way impacted on my ability to take part in all aspects of the Committee. In using my discretion and acting with candour I still had an open mind on both petitions and I was judging them based on their merits.

INNACURATE CLAIM OF A PRIVATE INTEREST

In your draft report, paragraph 5.8, you twice claim that I have a 'private' interest in the petitions. This is in contrast to your other claims of a 'relevant' interest. You have not made any attempt to define what you mean by a 'private' interest. Every legal definition I can find asserts that a private interest would lead to some kind of benefit, privilege, exemption or advantage from a person's actions.

I cannot see any attempt from you to explain what benefit, privilege, exemption or advantage I stood to gain from scrutinising the petitions, particularly as I stated on the record during the proceedings that I would support building on the Northern Meadows if there was no better alternative. All you really have to say on the matter is that I 'had a non-financial interest in opposing the proposed development.' I find this utterly inaccurate.

MATTERS OF GENERAL PRINCIPLE

Your report includes two matters of general principle that arise. I would argue that significantly more arise from your report, principally that you have substantially widened the scope of what should be considered a 'relevant' interest. It is no longer for members to exercise their discretion, judgement and candour in a system of good faith. Nor for the Llywydd to investigate such matters. It is now for you to furnish the Standards Committee with subjective opinions that you present as statements as fact.

The ramifications of your new procedure is that coordinated campaign groups are now at liberty to attack MSs carrying out their functions through increasing use of 'lawfare'.

I note that before the same committee meeting on the 15th of September [REDACTED] did not declare an interest before considering the same petitions. This is despite [REDACTED] party's formal position

being to oppose the proposed Velindre hospital being built on the Northern Meadows and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] being very active campaigners against the proposal, including [REDACTED]'s former employee and close confidante [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]'s leader, [REDACTED] MS, similarly visited the Northern Meadows site ahead of a protest who subsequently wrote to Velindre to state [REDACTED] 'concern' about building on the site.

Previously I would have been content for [REDACTED] to exercise [REDACTED] discretion and I would have afforded [REDACTED] respect that [REDACTED] was acting candidly and in good faith, as every MS has done since 1999. But given your new position on relevant interests I am now forced to make a complaint about [REDACTED] as she is a [REDACTED] politician and [REDACTED] is opposed to building on the Northern Meadows.

Please see evidence of [REDACTED]'s position below.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

A similar issue arose when considering the petition for an Environmental Impact Assessment before conducting the next round of dumping of mud dredged from outside Hinkley Point nuclear reactor. [REDACTED], the [REDACTED] MS, has previously voted to allow the mud to be dumped, without an EIA. As such I must now make a complaint against [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] did not declare this interest during the considerations of the Committee.

Conversely, [REDACTED] politician [REDACTED] did not declare that it is [REDACTED] party's position for there to be an EIA before the next round of dumping before considering the petition.

When it comes to the Save the Royal Glamorgan A&E campaign I note that [REDACTED] MS has been a vocal supporter of the campaign, so much so [REDACTED] has a dedicated section to it on [REDACTED] website.² [REDACTED] has hosted multiple organising meetings for the campaign.³ And [REDACTED] is repeatedly on the record as supporting that campaign⁴. But [REDACTED] made no declaration before voting on motion NDM7266 on the 12th of February this year, in addition to moving an amendment that called for the A&E services to be retained. In the interests of fairness I must now make a complaint against [REDACTED]. This list could go on and on.

Furthermore, new guidance must now be issued that simply being in a public, open Facebook group could be considered as a relevant interest and will be considered to be 'active' campaigning. That will be news to most MSs I am sure.

As a matter of general principle you are now setting a new precedent where MSs should not be considered to be acting in good faith when exercising their discretion in making a declaration of a relevant interest. In my four years as an MS I can think of few, if any, time where a member has declared a relevant interest on the Petitions Committee, despite parties often having formal and fixed positions on topics before taking part in plenary and committee meetings.

This is a major change in the regime that operates in the Senedd that is going to lead to significant numbers of additional complaints and significant additional time required before each proceeding for declarations to be made. Even where they are simply scrutinising a petition with an open mind and

² [REDACTED]

³ [REDACTED]

⁴ [REDACTED]

based on its merits, where they have no decision making role on a development, and where they stand to gain no benefit, privilege or advantage from their actions, you are now at liberty to judge them as having brought the Senedd into disrepute.

I feel you ought to dedicate more than one brief paragraph on this matter so that the Standards Committee is able to fully appreciate the scale of the changes that will arise as a result of your new interpretation of standing orders and the way they will be investigated. Members are no longer to exercise their discretion, despite that being the standing order.

On the whole, I can only conclude that this biased, inaccurate and unprecedented report is a further example of the indirect and direct discrimination that I face from the institution that I was democratically elected to. Yet again a process has been implemented that specifically puts me, a person with a protected racial characteristic, at a disadvantage. And again I'm being targeted with direct discrimination where I am being treated worse than another Member would be in the same situation. As a result, I will be forced to refer your libellous draft report to the Equality and Human Rights Commission as further evidence of the institutionalised discrimination that I face.

APPENDIX 1

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 November 2020 14:05
To: McEvoy, Neil (Aelod o'r Senedd | Member of the Senedd) <Neil.McEvoy@senedd.wales>
Subject: Re: The Meadows Campaign

Dear Mr.McEvoy,

I would like to confirm for the standards committee that Mr. McEvoy has categorically never been involved with the save the northern meadows campaign. He has never attended any meetings on zoom, with our core team, outreach team, or legal team, where we decide what actions or strategies we take. He has never read a planning application or contributed ideas for opposition, and neither have we asked him to. Rather, he is a member of a facebook group - as is [REDACTED], and likely every other elected representative in the Senedd - and has attended one protest, where he came without our prior knowledge with [REDACTED].

Here, he met community members who discussed the issue with him. I met him for maybe two minutes to say I started the campaign and I was happy to see him attend as our elected representative. He spent the rest of the time discussing the issues with individuals from our community. This event was also attended by [REDACTED], and local councillor [REDACTED]. Both of these individuals have also been mercilessly attacked by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] campaign as a result. **I do not believe bullies should be granted such a strong role in deciding who is able to contribute to public life. Clearly this commissioner does not agree.**

I am shocked that the commissioner found this 'fact', when it is **demonstrably false**. I am also incredibly confused as to how this 'fact' was found, when **not a single person from our campaign has been contacted in respect to this matter**. To say Mr. McEvoy is within two groups - **when we are only one** - demonstrates an almost laughable mockery of the democratic process by this commissioner. **To me, this appears as farcical, a subversion of democratic principles, and an assault on the truth which Mr. McEvoy represented at the petitions committee.**

As an elected representative, we would expect Mr. McEvoy to evaluate all the facts of the matter and present them in a convincing manner. During the petitions committee meeting, all he did was present the facts of the matter, which had simply been raised by our campaign **in emails which were**

received by ALL petitions committee members. Should [REDACTED] have wanted committee members to support [REDACTED] petition, [REDACTED] should have written a convincing argument, or an actionable petition. No petition committee member acted or said anything in support of [REDACTED]'s petition, because it was not actionable. Therefore, that is the petitioners fault and not Mr. McEvoy's. **Furthermore, the counter petitioners are actually represented by the Welsh Government**, who appear determined to complete the project regardless of the damage it will cause local people and our biodiversity.

As such Mr. McEvoy was not acting in a biased manner, he was simply highlighting for the public the **factual inaccuracies which characterise this project**.

He does not represent this campaign, and never has been and never will be involved with this campaign. Please note I do not say organisation, as we are not an organisation. We do not have any business interests or funds. All of our work is done by volunteers based purely on revealing the truth and protecting our community. In fact, I would argue [REDACTED] uses [REDACTED] campaign to influence public life.

Surely, contesting the Government is not against the standards of public life, it is actually the standard which should be upheld and encouraged to ensure our democracy remains healthy. Caving to what is effectively a **campaign of bullies organised by a [REDACTED]** and [REDACTED] is shameful. The use of public money to support bullies is shocking.

There is no fact in what the standards commissioner has found in para 5.5. **This campaign was never consulted by the commissioner regarding Mr. McEvoy's position with us**, instead relying on the position of individuals being manipulated as a result of their high emotions due to personal tragedies relating to cancer.

This conclusion is a sham, and represents an incredibly dark day for the Welsh democratic process, if elected representatives are no longer allowed to counter the Governmental narrative or represent the interests of their constituents.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Neil McEvoy MS
BY EMAIL
Neil.McEvoy@senedd.wales

17 November 2020

Dear Mr McEvoy,

COMPLAINTS AGAINST YOU BY [REDACTED] AND 65 OTHERS

Thank you for your email of 13 November commenting on what you believe were *inaccuracies and omissions from my draft report*.

As explained in my letter of 4 November, the opportunity afforded you at this stage of the process is restricted to commenting on the factual accuracy of anything in the report. In your email you comment on only one matter of factual accuracy.

I have, however, considered all your comments and set out below how I have dealt with them. I follow the order of the subject headings in your email.

Facts omitted

You state quite correctly that the report does not refer to what you said at the meeting on 15 September. That is because, having listened to the recording of the meeting, I did not consider what you said to be relevant to the issue of whether or not you failed to declare a relevant interest. That

Y Pierhead
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1NA
Ffôn: 0300 200 6224
E-bost: Comisiynydd.Safonau@senedd.cymru

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg

Pierhead
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA
Tel: 0300 200 6224
E-mail: Standards.Commissioner@senedd.wales

We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

remains my view but if the Committee is of a different view I am sure they will have no difficulty in listening to the recording.

Membership of Facebook Groups

Questions 7 and 8 of the interrogatories asked you about your membership of the two pressure groups who oppose development on the Meadows site and afforded you the opportunity to express any concerns you had about your description as being a member of these groups. Question 22 gave you the opportunity to say anything else you else you considered relevant to my investigation of these complaints against you. You did not avail of any of these opportunities. Your email has been annexed to my report and the Committee will be able to attach such weight as they consider appropriate to the comments you have only now made.

You express concern about my description of you in paragraph 5.5 of my report as an *active* member of these groups. Whilst that remains my view I have deleted the word *active* in the final version of my report.

Disputed Fact

I note that Fact X is the only one of the 14 Facts Established that you dispute. On viewing the video I wrongly took it that the location was the Meadows site. Question 18 of the interrogatories was *Did you in tweets on 26 and 27 August 2020 make clear your agreement with the view expressed by some medical professionals that the land known by some as the Whitchurch or Northern Meadows was not an appropriate site for the proposed new Velindre Cancer Centre?* You chose not to answer that, or indeed any of the other, questions in the interrogatories: had you done so my error could have been corrected. I have amended the final report by deleting the *Meadows site* and substituting *green field sites*.

Exceeding the 2009 Measure

I note that you accept that in making the comments to which you take exception, I was following the practice of former Standards Commissioners. I do not accept your criticism but to allay your concerns the final version of the report makes clear that these are matters for the Committee to consider.

Failure to provide full details of Senedd guidance on declaring relevant interests

All the provisions, relevant to the subject matter of the complaints, that Members are required to follow are set out in paragraph 3 of my report. The text you quote is not, as you assert, from Standing Orders. It is from the Guidance to the Code of Conduct. I feel sure that Members of the Committee will be familiar with both Standing Order 17.24A and with that Guidance. They will be able to consider your comments about them.

You also complain that I did not state in my report that declaration of a relevant interest had no bearing on a Member's right to participate in committee proceedings. Nowhere did I suggest that it did. I do not consider it appropriate to set out in my report something that was simply not an issue.

Inaccurate claim of a private interest

I am not convinced that it is appropriate to assign to *private interest* the various judicial interpretations of the phrase rather than its ordinary meaning. However, to avoid any risk of possible delay whilst the matter is resolved and as the matter is not central to my findings that you failed to declare a relevant interest, I have in my final report deleted all reference to you having a private interest in the two petitions.

Matters of general principle

I will write to you shortly in relation to the four complaints you have now made against other Members for allegedly failing to declare a relevant interest. Whilst the Committee will have sight of your entire email the text dealing with these complaints will be redacted from the copy of my final report sent to the complainants. That is necessary to preserve the confidential nature of the complaints process.

I do not accept that I have adopted any new approach to the duty to declare a relevant interest but the Committee will be able to consider your comments.

Your allegation that I have discriminated against you is unfounded and offensive.

Final report

I attach a copy of my final report which I have today submitted to the Committee. I have also sent copies (redacted as noted above) to the 66 complainants.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Bain', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Douglas Bain CBE TD

Y Comisiynydd Safonau Dros Dro / Acting Standards Commissioner