

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
13/12/2021

NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE DECISION
CLLR JOAN WATKINS

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To note the decision made by the Standards Committee for Newport City Council

Reasons:

Such decisions provide useful guidance and points of learning

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NA

Cabinet Decision Required NA

Council Decision Required NA

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr Emlyn Dole - Leader

Directorate:

Name of Head of Service:

Linda Rees-Jones

Report Author:

Robert Edgecombe

Designations:

Head of Administration and
Law

Legal Services Manager

Tel:

Email addresses:

rjedgeco@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

01267 224018

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
STANDARDS COMMITTEE
13/12/2021**

**NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE DECISION
CLLR JOAN WATKINS**

On the 22nd September 2021 the Standards Committee for Newport City Council considered the case of Councillor Joan Watkins following a complaint to and investigation by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

The allegations were that Councillor Watkins had breached Newport City Council's Code of Conduct in that she had improperly used her position as a member of the council and local health board when she advocated on behalf of a patient at a doctor's surgery and subsequently when making complaints to the health board about the surgery staff. These complaints were also exaggerated.

The Committee found that Councillor Watkin had breached paragraph 7(a) of the code

7(a) – not to, in an official capacity or otherwise, use or attempt to use her position improperly to confer on or secure for herself, or any other person, an advantage or create or avoid for herself, or any other person, a disadvantage.

Having regard to the aggravating factors present in the case the Committee determined that Councillor Watkins should be suspended from her role as councillor for a period of 3 months

A copy of the full decision of the Standards Committee is attached to this report.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: *LRJones*

Administration and Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: *LRJones*

Head of Administration and Law

1. **Scrutiny Committee** – not applicable
2. **Local Member(s)** - not applicable
3. **Community / Town Council** - it is suggested that such consultation take place
4. **Relevant Partners** - not applicable
5. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** - not applicable

**CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S)
AWARE/CONSULTED**

NO

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Legal Services file	DPSC-192	County Hall, Carmarthen