

APPLICATION TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE FOR DISPENSATION

Please note that each section **MUST** be completed. Please refer to the attached Guidance Notes when completing the form.

1. YOUR DETAILS

Your full name: Anne Carys Jones

Name of your Council: Carmarthenshire County Council

Email address: acarysjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

2. DETAILS OF YOUR INTEREST

What is the matter under consideration?

Ysgol Llansteffan is part of the Bancyfelin, Llangain and Llansteffan Federation of Schools. The future of Ysgol Llansteffan is currently in the balance due to low pupil numbers. I expect there to be detailed and consistent discussion between the school, the parents, the community and the Local Authority over the coming months, and I will be expected to be involved in those discussions.

What is your interest in the above matter?

I am a Local Authority Nominated Governor of the Bancyfelin, Llangain and Llansteffan Federation of Schools. I also have a historically close relationship with Ysgol Llansteffan as this is my local school.

When will the above matter be considered?

The issue is likely to come to a climax in January (2025) when the pupil numbers census will be held in our schools. Pupil numbers at Ysgol Llansteffan may fall below or near the limit, in which case the matter will likely be referred to the Local Authority.

Are you applying for dispensation to:

Speak only: x

Speak and vote:

Make written
Representations x

Exercise Executive
Powers

3. GROUNDS FOR DISPENSATION

Regulations issued by the National Assembly for Wales prescribe the circumstances in which the Standards Committee may grant a dispensation. These grounds for granting a dispensation are summarised below and are set out in full in the attached guidance notes. On which of the following grounds do you believe that a dispensation should be granted in this case? Please tick the appropriate box(es).

• at least half of the members considering the business has an interest	<input type="checkbox"/>
• my inability to participate would upset the political balance of the meeting to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;	<input type="checkbox"/>
• my participation would not damage public confidence	x <input type="checkbox"/>
• the interest is common to me and a significant proportion of the general public;	<input type="checkbox"/>
• my participation in the business is justified by my particular role or expertise;	x <input type="checkbox"/>
• the business is to be considered by an overview and scrutiny committee and my interest is not a pecuniary interest;	<input type="checkbox"/>
• the business relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board I am a member and I have no other interest	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF YOUR APPLICATION

Please set out below the reasons why you consider that the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation in this case:

(Please note that failure to complete this section will result in the application form being returned to you)

Ysgol Llansteffan is part of the Bancyfelin, Llangain and Llansteffan Federation of Schools. The future of Ysgol Llansteffan is currently in the balance due to low pupil numbers. I expect there to be detailed and consistent discussion between the school, the parents, the community and the Local Authority over the coming months.

As a Governor I am expected to be active in my role as a link between the School and the Local Authority and between the school and the community. The parents also expect me to be a link between them and the Authority.

Ysgol Llansteffan is one school in a Federation of three schools. In recent years a number of children from Ysgol Llansteffan have moved to another school within the Federation, and it can be claimed that there is a perception that that school is benefiting in seeing an increase in pupil numbers. I am also a Governor of this school, within the Federation.

I live in Llansteffan and have been a member of Llansteffan and Llanybri Community Council for about 20 years. The Community Council does not have a nominated member on the Governing Body of the Federation, and none of the other Councillors are governors.

My role as a Governor of the Federation is to represent and work on behalf of all three schools. I do not have an issue with this at all, and I am fully aware of my responsibilities in that regard. But as I live in the village of Llansteffan and have been close to the school for years - before the federation - it is clear that I have a personal connection with the school, the pupils and the parents, and this creates a personal interest.

I do not think I should have a vote on any further issue concerning the future of Ysgol Llansteffan, either as a Governor or as a County Councillor - the boundaries are too blurred. However, I have a duty to communicate between the Authority, the Governing Body, the parents and the Community Council when needed. I also think it is important that I am prepared to note any verbal communication on paper as a record or a way of reporting back, as necessary.

So, in summary, this request is for Dispensation:

- To be a link between different parties verbally;
- To record/report back when necessary;
- For authority to abstain from voting on any matter where there is potential for a perception for one school to be at an advantage/disadvantage within the Federation as a whole;
- To continue until the future of Ysgol Llansteffan is defined and confirmed.

When the future of the situation regarding Ysgol Llansteffan has been formalised, and any finding of interest has come to an end, I will come back to the Standards Committee to lift the dispensation so that I can once again act fully as a Governor of the Federation.

Thank you very much.

(please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

I confirm that the information provided on this form is true to the best of my knowledge. I agree that this application and all the information contained within it may form part of a public report to the Standards Committee. I request a dispensation in respect of the above matter.

Signed:

Coys Jones

Date:

25 / 11 / 2024

Please return this form to the Monitoring Officer, Chief Executive's Department, Carmarthenshire County Council, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP. / Monitoringofficer@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Guidance notes

- (1) Please read through the Code of Conduct and decide which of the paragraphs is most appropriate to your case. Brief details of the relevant paragraphs are noted in the table below. If you are unsure, please contact the Monitoring Officer for advice.

Para.	Type of personal interest	
10(2)(a)	Council business which relates to or is likely to affect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your employment or business, • your employer, firm or company • a contract made between the Council and you • any land, lease or licence in which you have an interest • a public body or other association in which you have membership or hold a position of general control or management 	
10(2)(b)	Council business in which there may be a conflict between your decision-making role and your role in representing constituents in your ward	
10(2)(c)	Council business which affects your well-being or financial position, or the well-being, financial position or other interests of a person with whom you live or have a close personal association	
13	Council business which is being considered by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and which relates to a decision of the Cabinet or another Committee of which you were a member at the time [County Council only]	

- (2) The Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations)(Wales) Regulations 2001 state that a Standards Committee may grant dispensations where:

- (a) no fewer than half of the members of the relevant authority or of a committee of the authority (as the case may be) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business;
- (b) no fewer than half of the members of a leader and cabinet executive of the relevant authority by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business and either paragraph (d) or (e) also applies;
- (c) in the case of a county or county borough council, the inability of the member to participate would upset the political balance of the relevant authority or of the committee of the authority by which the business is to be considered to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;
- (d) the nature of the member's interest is such that the member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the relevant authority's business;
- (e) the interest is common to the member and a significant proportion of the general public;
- (f) the participation of the member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the member's particular role or expertise;
- (g) the business to which the interest relates is to be considered by an overview and scrutiny committee of the relevant authority and the member's interest is not a pecuniary interest;

- (h) the business which is to be considered relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board the member is a member otherwise than as a representative of the relevant authority and the member has no other interest in that business provided that any dispensation shall not extend to participation in any vote with respect to that business; or
- (i) it appears to the committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the relevant authority that the disability should be removed provided that written notification of the grant of the dispensation is given to the National Assembly for Wales within seven days in such manner as it may specify.