

**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: Councillor Andre McPherson

Name of your Council: Carmarthenshire County Council

Your address and postcode: 1 Heol Y Cloddiau, Dafen, Llanelli, SA14 8QX

Contact telephone number(s): 07583525635

Email address: asjmcpherson@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

2. DETAILS OF YOUR INTEREST

What is the matter under consideration?

Any matter relating to mental health issues and the provision of mental health services

What is your interest in the above matter?

I am a Clinical Psychologist
I am the Chairman of Llanelli Mind

When will the above matter be considered?

No specific date. Could be at any time during my term of office.

Are you applying for dispensation to:

Speak only:

Speak and vote: x

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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"/>
• it is appropriate to do so in all the circumstances where not otherwise possible to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate a person's disability	<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)

Mental health issues represent a great challenge to our communities and affect a significant proportion of the population. Unfortunately these issues have not historically received the attention that they deserve, leading to many suffering in silence due to a lack of much needed support.

I believe that my expertise in the Mental health sector means that I am well placed to speak on these issues in meetings of the council and its committees, and to make written representations.

I believe that I should also be able to vote as on a day to day basis I am working with people who suffer either primary or secondary mental health problems, and though this I have a good understanding of their needs. By voting I will be able to more effectively represent the interests of this, often ignored, section of society.

As Chair of the board of Llanelli Mind, I am involved with the day to day running of the charity, which runs day drop in centres, befriending services as well as counselling and coping skills courses. It is also a place for people to get advice and for sign posting to other services.

Part of the funding stream of the charity is from direct and indirect funding through Carmarthenshire County Council. In total this works out to 25% of the overall budget.

I do not believe that this would affect the public's confidence in my ability to act in the wider public interest on these issues.

However I accept that it might undermine the public's confidence when dealing with matters that specifically relate to Llanelli Mind.

As such I do not seek dispensation in respect of any application by Llanelli Mind or any other Mind Charities for funding, or for any regulatory approval.

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:

Date:

 / /

Please return this form to the Monitoring Officer, Chief Executive's Department, Carmarthenshire County Council, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP.

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)(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(as amended) state that a Standards Committee may grant dispensations where:

- 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;
- 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;
- 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.
- (j) It is considered appropriate in all the circumstances to do so where not otherwise possible to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate a persons disability