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Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: OQ57366

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Dear Joel

Thank you for your question at Plenary on 15 December. I committed to giving further consideration to your question regarding a community councillor holding the role of clerk.

Community and town council clerks are independent officers of community councils. They must be appointed, employed and paid by their community council. The community council should satisfy itself that the clerk acts in line with their legal requirements and the terms of their employment. Councils should also take steps to ensure potential conflicts of interest, such as council membership are recognised and managed.

In an emergency (e.g. to cover a temporary vacancy) a councillor from within that council may fulfil the role of clerk – although this must be unpaid. Councillors may not be paid employees of their council (as there is an unacceptable conflict of interest) and may not become employees of their former council until at least 12 months after ceasing to be a councillor.

I am not aware that this is currently a wide spread issue in community and town councils, but would welcome further insight.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
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Minister for Finance and Local Government

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.