

## Out of Order

16 September 2020

### Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received on 19 August in which you asked:

*Hello, under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to obtain any list belonging to the Senedd Commission and its staff concerning events that were thought to have been 'out of order' or unacceptable in the chamber since the start of the Fifth Assembly, whether it be words, expressions, or behaviours.*

For the period between May to October 2016, please refer to FoI729 sent to you in October 2016.

The following list contains behaviours or actions which were ruled to be out of order in Plenary, together with the relevant dates. The list is kept by officials, but it is not exhaustive. You will need to view the Record of Proceedings to understand the context of the judgment in each case.

- Llywydd intervenes on a Member who has used the words 'incompetence or corruption', referring him to her statement and use appropriate language. When the Member then repeats the words the Llywydd cuts off his microphone and calls the next speaker. (19 July 2017)
- "Arrogantly" of First Minister (7 May 2019)
- "Biased" – Member asked to withdraw after accusations directed at the Llywydd (12 November 2019)

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- “Deviation from the norm” within society as a result of minority rights (12 December 2017)
- “Lied” Member referring to Boris Johnson’s dealings with the Queen and the proroguing of Parliament (17 September 2019)
- “Political hatchet man” of appointment of Acting Standards Commissioner (13 November 2019)
- “Right wing shits” of Plaid Cymru AMs (20 September 2017)
- “Sheepish” of another AM (22 March 2017)
- “Strange relationship with the truth” of Carwyn Jones (27 November 2019)
- “Suicide is an option” of other Member’s rhetorical question about leaving the EU (29 March 2017)
- “Taken the shilling” while defending the FM’s handling of complaints (29 November 2017)
- The Llywydd requires a Member to withdraw from Senedd proceedings for making a live broadcast on social media whilst attending a meeting of plenary being held by video conference (8 April 2020)
- The Llywydd requires a Member to withdraw from Senedd proceedings for being in and sharing images from the Siambr on social media whilst plenary was being conducted by video conference (due to Covid-19), and the Siambr was out of use. (24 June 2020)
- During a debate on a report of the Standards of Conduct Committee, the Member who was the subject of the report raises issues outside its scope. The Deputy Presiding Officer reminds him of the topic of the debate (27 September 2017)
- During questions to the Assembly Commission, the Deputy Presiding Officer switches off a Member’s microphone when they attempt to question the conduct of the Commissioner answering the question on an issue not related to the

question (16 May 2018)

- During the BSA the Llywydd reminds a Member to stay within the scope of the item; the Llywydd switches off the Member's microphone when they fail to comply (17 July 2018)
- The Llywydd reminds Member that the term 'Honourable Member' is not used in the chamber: "that's the third time you've referred to an honourable lady. Nobody is honourable in this Chamber. We are all equal" (7 February 2017). Llywydd again reminds another Member about not using the term 'Honourable Member' (8 February 2017)
- The Deputy Presiding Officer states that she would review the record and return to the question of unparliamentary language used during a Minister's off-camera comments during the plenary meeting, which was conducted by video conference (22 April 2020). The Llywydd invites the Minister to address the Assembly at the next plenary meeting. The Minister withdraws his comments and apologises to the Llywydd and the Assembly (29 April 2020)

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Manager**  
**Welsh Parliament**

Your request has been considered according to the principles set out in the **Code of Practice on Public Access to Information**. If you have any questions regarding this response please contact me. If you feel you have cause for complaint, please follow the guidance below.

Cause for concern or complaint with your FOI response?

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Parliament's handling of your request, you can request an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Manager at:

**Information-request@senedd.wales** or in writing to

Welsh Parliament  
Governance and Assurance  
Cardiff Bay  
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If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF