Jayne Bryant AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Thai
Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JB/PO/193/26

James Evans MS

7 April 2026

Dear James

I welcome the opportunity to respond to your request for a statement on standards and transparency in local government.

The Welsh Government considers high standards of conduct, openness and accountability in local government to be essential to public confidence in democratic decision-making. These principles are underpinned by the statutory framework for members' conduct, including the Code of Conduct and the independent role of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW).

I am aware of the PSOW's decision in respect of the case you referenced. Their published findings make clear the relevant rules on personal and prejudicial interests are well established. Those rules should be understood and followed, and any relevant interests must be declared and managed in keeping with the Code. Members must both follow the rules and be seen to do so.

In this case, the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales concluded that, while the circumstances gave rise to understandable concern, the rules were correctly applied and no breach of the Code of Conduct occurred. My officials continue to work with the sector to support effective governance arrangements, including through guidance and training.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Jayne Bryant

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Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
Gohebiaeth.Jayne.Bryant@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jayne.Bryant@gov.Wales

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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.