

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Standards Committee</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>25 January 2015</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Applications for dispensation</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Monitoring Officer</b>
<b>Action:</b>	<b>To decide upon the application</b>

## **Background**

1. I enclose an application from Councillor John Pughe Roberts, member for Corris/Mawddwy on Gwynedd Council relating to the reorganisation of education in the catchment area of Ysgol y Gader, Dolgellau, together with an application by Councillor Dilwyn Morgan, member for Y Bala on Gwynedd Council, in connection with the catchment area of Ysgol y Berwyn, Y Bala.

2. The Standards Committee may grant a dispensation of the situation comes within one (or more) of those listed in the relevant regulations (see Appendix).

4. The Committee has also developed guidelines to consider in applications relating to school reorganisation:

*“a father/mother, grandfather/grandmother, grandson/granddaughter, husband or wife, children, brother or sister would amount to too close a connection to allow dispensation in terms of a specific school, since it would be difficult for the public to gain confidence in the way a decision would be reached.”*

5. The Ombudsman’s Guidelines on the code of Conduct note the following in relation to granting dispensations in general:

*“The standards committee will need to balance the public interest in preventing members with prejudicial interests from taking part in decisions, against the public interest in decisions being taken by a reasonably representative group of members of the authority. If failure to grant a dispensation will result in an authority or committee not achieving a quorum, this may well constitute grounds for granting a dispensation.”*

6. Any further information received in relation to the applications will be presented at the meeting.

## **Recommendation**

7. The Committee is requested to consider and decide upon the applications.