

Composition

Membership of the Standards Committee.

The standards committee is composed of 7 Members appointed by the CJC who shall be independent members appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 as amended.

The following persons are not eligible to serve as Independent (Lay) Members of the standards committee:

(a) A person who is a member or an officer of a corporate joint committee or a member or officer of a constituent authority or constituent National Park Authority of that corporate joint committee,

(b) A person who has been, but is no longer a member or an officer of a corporate joint committee or a member or officer of a constituent authority or constituent National Park Authority of that corporate joint committee,

(c) Subject to (a) and (b) above for a period of 12 months commencing on the date on which that person ceased to be a member or officer of a Relevant Authority a person who has been but is no longer a member or officer of it

Term of Office

Independent (Lay) Members are appointed for a period of not less than four and not more than six years and may be reappointed for one consecutive term not exceeding four years.

Meetings

The standards committee must meet at least once annually.

Quorum of Standards Committee

A meeting of the standards committee shall only be quorate when at least 5 Members, including the chairperson or in their absence the vice chair, are present.

Voting

All Members will be entitled to vote at meetings.

A question to be decided by the standards committee shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast by those members present at the meeting and eligible to vote.

In the case of an equality of votes, the person presiding at a meeting of the standards committee shall have a second, casting vote.

Chairing the committee.

Only an Independent (Lay) Member of the standards committee may be the chairperson or vice-chairperson

If the chairperson is absent from a meeting of the standards committee, then the vice-chairperson of the committee, if present, shall preside.

If both the chairperson and the vice-chairperson of the standards committee are absent from a meeting, an independent member as chosen by the standards committee shall preside.

The chairperson and vice-chairperson will be elected by the Members of the standards committee for whichever is the shortest period of:

- a. not less than four years or no more than six years; or
- b. until the term of office of the Independent Member comes to an end.

A chairperson or vice-chairperson can be re-elected following their re-appointment as a member of the committee as the case may be.

Role and Function

The standards committee will have the following roles and functions:

- a. promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Members;
- b. assisting Members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
- c. advising the CJC on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- d. monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- e. advising on training or arranging to train Members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
- f. granting dispensations to Members from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;
- g. dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matter referred to that officer by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.
- h. overseeing the CJC's whistle-blowing regime;
- i. providing advice to individual Members on such issues as the treatment of personal interest and on conduct matters generally.
- j. determining appropriate action on matters referred to it by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.
- k. overseeing the Register of Interest of Members and Officers.
- l. overseeing the CJC's rules and protocols on accountability of members.
- m. overseeing the attendance of Members at relevant meetings.

As soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year, the standards committee will make an annual report to the CJC setting out the following:

- a. how the committee's functions have been discharged
- b. what has been done to discharge the general and specific functions;
- c. reports and recommendations made or referred to the committee by the Ombudsman;
- d. action taken by the committee following its consideration of such reports and recommendations;
- e. notices given to the committee by the Adjudication Panel for Wales.
- f. such other matters as the committee may wish to draw to the attention of CJC in relation to the standards committee's functions.