

Committee:	The Standards Committee
Date:	4 November 2024
Title:	The Gifts and Hospitality Register for Members
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Purpose:	For information and to offer any observations on the arrangements

Background

1. This report is presented to the Committee as part of its work of monitoring standards within the Council.
2. The Model Code of Conduct for Members makes it compulsory for members to provide written notification to the Monitoring Officer of any offer of a gift, hospitality material benefit or advantage above a value set by the authority and do so within 28 days. Gwynedd has decided that the value should be £25, and furthermore that such offers must be registered whether accepted or not.
3. A form is available for registering offers and a copy is attached as **Appendix 1**.

The Protocol

4. The Council adopted a Protocol for Members on Gifts and Hospitality in 2004. Following the publication of a new Code of Conduct and Guidelines by the Ombudsman the Standards Committee reviewed the Protocol and presented its recommendations to the Council. The Council adopted the current Protocol, incorporating the Committee's suggested amendments on 2 May 2013.
5. A copy of the Protocol is attached as **Appendix 2**.

The Register

6. This Committee has in past discussed whether the register should be published on the Council's website. It was decided then that it should not be. Whilst the Council must publish its register of Members' Interests on the website but no such obligation exists in respect of the register of Gifts and Hospitality.

Analysis

7. The registrations on the current register were analysed and the results are set out in the table below:

Date of Form	Gift/Hospitality	Accepted/refused	Value
10-01-23	Flowers and a bottle of prosecco after helping a constituent with a planning application	No information	Over £25
04-09-23	Gift vouchers as thanks for helping with a planning application	Refused – given back to the family	No information
25-03-24	A bottle of whisky through the post without covering note or return address. Member believes that it was because of help given with a planning application. He had previously explained that he could not accept a gift.	Given to local village hall as raffle prize	£25 - £27
23/08-24	Hamper as thanks for assisting with planning application	Refused – returned to constituent	No information

7.1 It remains the cases therefore that, on the basis of what is registered, the number of offers of gifts and hospitality is low. All offers registered to date (since May 2022) are expressions of thanks to local members for assistance in relation to planning applications, after the decision has been made.

Recommendation

8.The Committee is asked to:

- (a) note and accept the report
- (b) offer any observations on the report