

Equality of Opportunity Committee

Minutes EOC(3)-14-08

Date: Thursday 6 November 2008

Time: 9.30 - 11.30

Venue: Committee Room 2, Senedd, National Assembly for Wales

Assembly Members in Attendance

Joyce Watson, Mid and West Wales (Temporary Chair)

Eleanor Burnham, North Wales

Nick Ramsay, Monmouth

Bethan Jenkins, South Wales West

Officials in Attendance

Tom Jackson, Clerk

Rita Phillips, Deputy Clerk

Others in Attendance

Brian Gibbons AM, Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

Ian Skinner, Head of Local Government, Capital Policy and Accounts

Steve Chamberlain, Head of Equality and Human Rights Delivery

Frank Cuthbert, Head of Local Government Democracy Team

Bob Screen, Chair, Association of Electoral Administrators in Wales

Phil Johnson, Vice Chair, Association of Electoral Administrators in Wales

Kay Jenkins, Head of Electoral Commission Wales

Item 1: Introduction, apologies and substitutions

1.1 The Clerk opened the meeting and called for nominations to elect a temporary chair.

1.2 Joyce Watson was nominated and elected as temporary chair.

1.3 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and members of the public.

1.4 Apologies were received from Ann Jones. There were no substitutions.

1.5 There were no declarations of interest.

Item 2: Equal Pay Update

Paper: EOC(3)-14-08 (p.1)

2.1 The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government responded to questions from the Committee.

Item 3: Report on the Accessibility to Polling Stations in Wales Update

Paper: EOC(3)-14-08(p.2)

3.1 The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government responded to questions from the Committee.

Actions:

The Minister to raise the difficulty experienced by people with mental health problems in participating in the democratic process with the co-ordinator of the Councillors Commission - Expert Panel for Wales and to put this on the Agenda for the next Elections Planning Group meeting.

The Minister to provide feedback on discussions following the Councillors Commission - Expert Panel for Wales and Elections Planning Group meetings.

The Minister to provide the Committee with details of the membership of the Councillors Commission - Expert Panel for Wales.

Papers: EOC(3)-14-08(p.3) and EOC(3)-14-08(p.4)

3.2 Kay Jenkins, Bob Screen and Phil Johnson responded to questions from the Committee.

Actions:

The Electoral Commission to update the Committee with the progress of proposals made in their Report on 'Electoral Administration in the UK', published in August 2008, which recommended that Electoral Management Boards be established in Scotland, Wales and English regions.

The Committee resolved to hold the remainder of the meeting in private session under Standing Order 10.37

Committee Service

November 2008