

The suggested new rules etc are an improvement and I applaud the committee's work. However the sanctions remain weak and insufficient. The population and electors at large face potential criminal sanctions, expulsion and loss of employment for serious actions such as fiddling expenses, dishonesty, corruption etc. Why should AM/SMs deserve a lower standard? Surely electors expect them to be subject to higher standards with realistic sanctions for breach which are enforced. Currently most electors have a low opinion of SM/SMs (as well as many local councillors) and do not trust them. This will continue whilst sanctions are seen to be weak and not properly enforced. Wales deserves better.

Sir David Lewis