

William Powell AM - Chair
 Petitions Committee
 National Assembly for Wales
 Cardiff Bay
 Cardiff
 CF99 1NA

5 July 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for seeking the view of the Electoral Commission on the petition submitted by Nortridge Perrott on multiple mandates.

The Commission, in its response to the UK Government's Green Paper on future electoral arrangements for the National Assembly for Wales, commented on this issue (albeit at that time relating to the UK Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales):

Question 6: Multiple Mandates

1. *Whilst the Commission does not have a specific view on the question of multiple mandates, we would consider that any decision relating to this question should place the interest of the voter or voters first. For example, what would voters expect of their elected representatives and how can an elected representative ensure the best possible level of service for the electorate? Can this be achieved by representing voters at a variety of different levels (for example at the UK Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales) and the experience which this brings about or should the focus be entirely on one legislature?*
2. *The Green Paper does refer to the European Parliament and the restrictions in place in order to qualify for election to this legislature. In order to achieve a consistent approach to this issue it may also be appropriate to look at those members who are both elected councillors (at local authority level) and AMs as this is another clear example of a multiple mandate.**

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We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English
 Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg



As you may already be aware, the Northern Ireland Executive's Minister for the Environment, Alex Attwood MLA, has also announced his intention to ban "double jobbing" (being a local councillor and an MLA) in Northern Ireland from April 2014.

The Commission would be happy to consider providing a more detailed response to this specific question at a later point dependent on any decision taken by the Petitions Committee and / or by the Minister for Local Government and Government Business.

Yours sincerely,



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* The Electoral Commission's response to the UK Government's Green Paper on future electoral arrangements for the National Assembly for Wales (August 2012)