

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau
Petitions Committee

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



David Melding AM
Deputy Presiding Officer
Chair
Constitutional and Legislative Affairs
Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Our ref: P-04-454

April 2014

Dear

David

You may recall that Mr Nortridge Perrott submitted a petition in January 2013 about Assembly Members holding two elected positions simultaneously. The petition wording was:

The petitioner asks the Welsh Government to bring forward legislation to bar the practice currently exhibited by 7 currently serving Assembly Members to hold TWO elected positions simultaneously, namely holding office as a Councillor within the Welsh Jurisdiction and also holding office as an elected Assembly Member in the National Assembly of Wales.

I wrote to you in February 2013 asking for the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs (CLA) Committee's views on the petition. At the time CLA Members agreed that it would be inappropriate for the Committee to look at the issue contained in the petition in isolation from other electoral issues.

However, I understand that the Welsh Government has recently asked CLA to review the National Assembly for Wales Disqualification Order in readiness for the next Assembly elections in 2016. In the light of this, the Petitions Committee would be grateful if CLA could consider as part of its review the principle raised in Mr Nortridge Perrott's petition and whether it can be addressed by amending the Disqualification Order.

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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg/We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

In the hope that it may help you in considering this matter, I enclose correspondence we have received as part of our consideration of the petition from:

- the Presiding Officer;
- the then Minister for Local Government and Government Business;
- the Electoral Commission;
- the WLGA; and
- the Electoral Reform Society;

I also enclose previous correspondence from the petitioner, which argues in part that the Disqualification Order offers an opportunity to address his concerns.

I would be grateful if you could let me know the outcome of your review so that I may keep the petitioner informed.

Yours sincerely



William Powell AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair

*(Please respond to the Committee Clerk at:
Stephen.George@wales.gov.uk)*

Enc Letter of 26 February 2013 from the Presiding Officer
Letter of 22 May 2013 from the Minister for Local Government and
Government Business
Correspondence of 2 June 2013 from the Petitioner
Correspondence of 21 June 2013 from the Petitioner
Letter of 5 July 2013 from the Electoral Commission
Correspondence of 26 September 2013 from the WLGA
Correspondence of 27 September 2013 from the Electoral Reform Society
Correspondence of 6 February 2014 from the Petitioner