

## **Dispensation request by Councillor Elwyn Vaughan**

I would ask that the Standards Committee consider my request for special dispensation for all Cllrs who are farmers, or those closely related to the agricultural sector, to enable them to partake in any discussion surrounding my motion regarding wool.

The motion places emphasis on facilitating innovation, adding value and creating new enterprises using Welsh wool as done in New Zealand. Hence, whilst the overall aim is to boost the market and utilisation for wool, it does not directly relate or benefit any individual farmer and no direct link could be placed between the potential effects of this motion and the overall price of wool for any individual farmer, bearing in mind that wool is a international commodity and sold at open online auctions.

Also, if someone claimed that personal gain could be derived as a result of this motion, then likewise the argument could be made that those other Cllrs who are consumers have a vested interest in keeping the price of wool down. That would mean that nobody could partake in the discussion.

Whilst considering this motion, i suggest that the same principle is taken into consideration with other similar farming related matters. Should similar motions on eg adding value to crops or food products, diversification or environmental changes such as Rewilding or alike come forward, unless individuals have a clear direct benefit as result of that motion then that dispensation is automatically given. It makes a mockery for those that have a understanding of such matters not to be able to partake in a discussion although it's clear they don't benefit directly.

The Standards Committee had an initial debate on this request at its meeting on 23 June 2021. This debate enabled officers to draft the following.

**The Standards Committee is asked to consider the following draft dispensation in respect of Wool Production:**

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION</b>
<b>(i) a dispensation be granted to those Members who are sheep farmers, (including close personal associates involved in sheep farming) to speak but not vote on matters relating to Wool Production and having spoken to leave the room.</b>	<b>i) due to the rural nature of the county a significant proportion of the Council was affected and unable to take part in a discussion on this matter, and Council thereby would lose their expertise</b>
<b>(ii) the dispensation shall continue in force until the first meeting of the Standards Committee after the next ordinary council elections in 2022 unless before those elections the Standards</b>	<b>ii) that no fewer than half of the Members of the Authority or of a committee of the Authority by which the business is to be</b>

<p><b>Committee revokes, amends or alters the dispensation</b></p>	<p><b>considered has an interest which relates to that business,</b></p> <p><b>iii) that the nature of the Member's interest is such that the Member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the relevant Authority's business.</b></p>
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