

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

18 September 2013

Dear William,

Reference P-04-482 and P-04-478

Thank you for writing to seek the views of the Electoral Commission on these two petitions. I apologise for the slight delay in responding.

Firstly with reference to Petition P-04-4782, any suggestion relating to the placing of a large public notice board containing details of elected members, including dates and times of council meetings should be the responsibility of the local electoral officer who has a statutory duty to "encourage the participation by electors in the electoral process in the area for which he acts"¹.

Most local authorities and elected members already provide this information at a local level either on notice boards or through the press and there is a wealth of information available online, although we recognise that not everyone in Wales will have access to this type of resource.

We therefore believe that the local electoral officer (rather than Welsh Government), in consultation with relevant elected members / organisations, would be ideally placed in taking a decision as to the feasibility of such a piece of work at a local level.

Turning to Petition P-04-478, the Electoral Commission already provides comprehensive and independent guidance for candidates and agents standing in all elections in the UK, so we would consider that the type of resource suggested by the petitioner, although not a leaflet, does already exist.

¹ Section 69, Para 1 Electoral Administration Act 2006

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☛ We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English

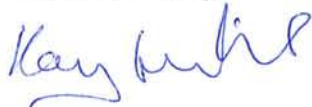


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This guidance is widely used, partly as a result of it being available through the Commission's website (www.electoralcommission.org.uk) and also due to its dissemination through a variety of networks, including each relevant democratically elected body.

It is a matter for the individual local authority, Parliament or Assembly to encourage individuals to stand as a candidate in any given election.

Yours sincerely,



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