

Appendix 2

Draft Response Letter

Re: Government consultation on disqualification criteria for councillors

On 13 December 2017 the County Council's Governance and Ethics Committee considered your consultation paper and the specific consultation questions, and has asked me to respond to the questions, on behalf of the council, as follows.

Q.1 Agree.

Q.2 Agree.

Q.3 Agree, but see response to section 6 below

Q.4 Agree.

Q.5 Any effect will be unquantifiable, but, if anything, should encourage a more positive environment for recruitment of candidates and should, generally, improve the image of councillors.

Q.6 There is some concern over the potential for the use of anti-social behaviour measures within the context of protests and demonstrations, and their consequences for later candidature for office. Examples of currently highly sensitive areas of dispute include shale gas exploration and protests against tree removal. This may be a different kind of behaviour to that which the anti-social behaviour legislation may have been primarily intended to cover, but is behaviour which may potentially be within its ambit.

Jayne Francis-Ward

Corporate Director Resources and Monitoring Officer