## Bridgend County Borough Council Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr



Ballocen's bont

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB / Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales 1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae Pencoed CF35 5LJ Legal and Regulatory Services /
Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol
Direct line / Deialu uniongyrchol: (01656) 642252
Ask for / Gofynnwch am: Andrew Jolley

Our ref / Ein cyf: PAJ Your ref / Eich cyf:

Date / Dyddiad: 28th January 2015

Dear Sir

## RE: CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO THE TWO STAGE TEST

The Standards Committee of Bridgend County Borough Council has considered the proposal to add a public interest test to the existing two stage test. The Committee has requested that I write to you expressing their agreement to the use of the public interest test. The committee remains concerned however in relation to the second limb of the now three stage test. The committee would prefer a simple two stage test of 1. Is there a breach and 2. Is it in the public interest to proceed.

You will be aware of the concern across Wales of this limb of the test. The committee remains concerned that it is their role to determine whether or not a sanction should apply and that consideration should be left to the committee. The public interest test should be sufficient to weed out the vexatious and frivolous complaints.

I am aware that you sought quick responses to the proposal and I apologise if this response is later than you wished for. The matter has been put to the earliest committee.

Yours sincerely

P. A. Jolley

**Assistant Chief Executive** 

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Legal & Regulatory Services & Monitoring Officer