



**RTPI Cymru**

Royal Town Planning Institute  
Sefydliad Cynllunio Trefol Brenhinol

David Rowlands AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
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15 November 2018

Dear Chair

**Petition P-05-845 End Conflict of Interest in Local Authority Constitution**

Thank you for your letter dated 2 November 2018 regarding the above Petition which your Committee is considering and for the opportunity to convey our views.

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) is the largest professional institute for planners in Europe, representing some 25,000 spatial planners. RTPI Cymru represents the RTPI in Wales, with 1,100 members in the public, private, academic and third sectors. The Institute seeks to advance the science and art of spatial planning for the benefit of the public.

We take the matter of the conduct of our members seriously and regard professional standards as a core function. This is essential in maintaining the public trust in the planning system. Our Members are obliged to adhere to the RTPI Code of Professional Conduct which is available on our website: [https://i.emlfiles4.com/cmpdoc/6/2/1/9/5/1/files/59082\\_rtpi-code-of-professional-conduct-feb\\_2016\\_new-cover-2017.pdf](https://i.emlfiles4.com/cmpdoc/6/2/1/9/5/1/files/59082_rtpi-code-of-professional-conduct-feb_2016_new-cover-2017.pdf) . We have also published a practice advice note on ethics [https://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/2675025/ethics\\_update\\_2017.pdf](https://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/2675025/ethics_update_2017.pdf) and have an online learning module to reinforce and support our Members to deal with ethical issues, such as conflicts of interest.

The RTPI's Code of Conduct is clear about conflicts of interest, which is relevant to this petition. It states: "Members must take all reasonable precautions to ensure that no conflict of duty arises between the interests of one employer, client or business associate and the interests of another." Our Practice advice clearly states: "You should not undertake any private planning work in the area where you are in the position to recommend the making of any decision materially affecting the development or use of land."

We are proactive in embedding ethics and the Code of Professional Conduct throughout our members' careers, including as part of the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) process to become Chartered Planners, as well as the advice and training support provided through members' careers.

I note that the petitioner has referred to contacting the RTPI to make a complaint, however we have no record of any contact from the Group. We have a robust complaints and

investigation process in place, which can be viewed at:  
<https://www.rtpi.org.uk/membership/professional-standards/how-to-make-a-complaint-about-rtpi-members/>. We take all complaints seriously.

I hope this provides the Committee with assurance that the RTPI's Code of Professional Conduct is robust and is supported by an effective complaints procedure. I would be happy to address any specific questions that you or the Committee have.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Roisin Willmott OBE FRTPi  
**Director**  
**RTPI Cymru**