

Edwina Hart AM MBE
*Minister for Finance, Local Government
and Communities*



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

DP 343 / 99-03

Our ref: OAQ23819

Janet Ryder AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

22 April 2003

Dear Ms Ryder,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL FRAMEWORK

During Oral Assembly Questions on 2 April 2003, I undertook to clarify the position regarding the establishment by principal councils of standards committees undertaking functions under the new ethical framework in relation to community councils.

The Local Government Act 2000 required every county council and fire authority to establish a standards committee to promote high standards of conduct and to assist members in observing the code of conduct. For community councils, this role is undertaken by either the standards committee of the principal local authority for the area, or by a sub-committee established by the standards committee for this purpose. Police authorities are subject to the same requirements but are covered by English regulations.

Under regulations approved by the National Assembly, every standards committee had to hold at least one meeting on or before 31 December 2001. The regulations also require that where a standards committee, or a sub-committee established for the purpose, is to discharge functions in relation to a community council, it must include at least one member of a community council within the area of the principal council. Every relevant authority has complied with these regulations.

I am arranging for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Assembly Library.

PP OR Lloyd

*(Approved by the Minister
and signed in her absence)*



BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE