

Communications between Prestatyn TC and Simon Edge

08/02/2013

Response 1 of 2

Further to my email of 21 January 2013, I am writing in response to your email of 17 January 2013 in which you requested:

"A copy of the communication/s from Prestatyn (and Meliden) Town Council to Mr S. Edge for Auditor General. Plus the response/s from Mr S. Edge for Auditor General. As referred to by below document, please...19.10.12 Wales Audit Office - Mr S. Edge for Auditor General..."

I attach a copy of Mr Edge's letter of 19 October 2012.

With regard to the first sentence of your request, we do not hold information that meets your description. Mr Edge's letter was a response to a letter from Prestatyn Town Council of 10 October 2012 to the Auditor General rather than to Mr Edge. It appears that you may have intended to request the Council's letter to the Auditor General, but to ensure that I consider the correct information I must ask you to clarify whether that is the case.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Peters

Response 2 of 2

Thank you for your email of 9 February 2013 with which you clarify that you seek "a copy of the original letter by Mr Nigel Acott/Prestatyn (and Meliden) Town Council to the Auditor General on 10 October 2012".

I attach a copy of the letter from Mr Acott to the Auditor General, which meets your request.

I have redacted some information from the letter and have not supplied the copy email referred to in the letter as this is third party personal information and disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. The redacted and withheld information falls within the exemption from disclosure provided by section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act (by virtue of section 40(3)(a)(i) of the Act).

If you wish to complain about my handling of your request, please email or write to me.

I must also refer you to section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act under which you may apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether or not your request has been dealt with in accordance with the Act. The Information Commissioner's contact details are:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
email : casework@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 01625 545745

Fax: 01625 524510

You should note, however, that the Information Commissioner would normally expect you to have exhausted our internal complaints procedures before dealing with such an application. Further guidance may be found on the Information Commissioner's website <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>

Yours sincerely,

Martin Peters

Date: 19 October 2012
Our ref: SE/AGPO070/hcj
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Second, the Wales Audit Office has produced a complaints leaflet, and I provide guidance to auditors across Wales on dealing with unacceptable actions by complainants or others making contact with the Wales Audit Office. Both are currently being updated (although the extant Complaints leaflet can be found at http://www.wao.gov.uk/assets/englishdocuments/WAO_Complaints_Leaflet_A5_english.pdf or http://www.wao.gov.uk/assets/welshdocuments/WAO_Complaints_Leaflet_A5_welsh.pdf). I will send copies of both documents when they are updated and hope that you will find them of use.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SAA', written in a cursive style.

Simon Edge
AUDITOR GENERAL FOR WALES' PRIVATE SECRETARY



Cyngor Tref Prestatyn Prestatyn Town Council

WALES AUDIT OFFICE
SWYDDFA ARCHWILIO CYMRU

11 OCT 2012
HUT 2145
→ BD ← HT
+ SE/MP/DE

Pan fyddwch yn ein ffonio, neu'n galw hebio, gofynnwch am:
When telephoning or calling, please ask for:

Eich Cyf / Your Ref:

Ein Cyf / Our Ref:

NA/JT/73(1)

Dyddiad / Date:

10th October 2012

Mr H. Vaughan Thomas
Auditor General
Wales Audit Office
24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff

Dear Mr Vaughan Thomas

Unacceptable Actions by Complainants Policy

I enclose a copy of the above policy being introduced by Town Council in an attempt to manage unacceptable actions by complainants.

Over the course of last few years Prestatyn Town Council and Councillors have been bombarded with requests for information, subjected to vexatious complaints, personal attacks and audit challenge. Due to legislation these actions are made at no expense to individual concerned but are extremely costly to public purse, democracy and public services.

There has been a successful prosecution by North Wales Police for posting of malicious You Tube video depicting three Prestatyn Town Councillors. Unfortunately no restraining order was granted and at next Full Council meeting the convicted person attended and sat behind the victims in public gallery. Several Councillors subsequently resigned or stood down because of the threats and intimidation they felt and experienced whilst trying to serve their community.

Unfortunately it would seem my Council is not alone in suffering such unacceptable actions and I also attach a copy of email received from [REDACTED]. Sadly I am aware there are several other Town/Community Councils in Wales feeling equally oppressed.

The proposed policy is an attempt by one Town Council to manage a difficult situation. Your observations and comments would be most welcome by 7th November 2012.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Acott
Town Clerk/Financial Officer

7 Ffordd Llŷs Nant, Prestatyn, Gogledd Cymru. LL19 9LR
Ffôn: 01745 857185 Ffacs: 01745 887814
e-bost: nigel.acott@prestatyntc.co.uk

7 Nant Hall Road, Prestatyn, North Wales. LL19 9LR
Tel: 01745 857185 Fax: 01745 887814
e-mail: nigel.acott@prestatyntc.co.uk

Nigel Acott FCIS CIEH
Clerc y Dref / Swyddog Cyllid
Town Clerk / Financial Officer

