

Mr William Humphrey, MLA  
Chairperson  
Public Accounts Committee  
Rm 344  
Parliament Buildings  
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Sent via email to: [committee.publicaccounts@niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:committee.publicaccounts@niassembly.gov.uk)

7<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Mr Humphrey MLA

Thank you for your letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022 requesting further information from NILGA.

I can confirm that NILGA is satisfied there are appropriate and robust policies and procedures in place in all Councils to deal with any potential conflicts of interest (either actual or perceived) and that those arrangements are routinely audited. Specifically, each Council has general arrangements for managing conflicts of interest which apply to all staff, but additionally there are specific requirements for planning officers and senior Council officers in each Council's scheme of delegation relating to planning. No concerns have been raised with NILGA by any party in relation to how conflicts of interest are managed for planning officers.

Please be advised that each Council based their standing orders on the model standing orders developed by Department for Communities. These standing orders specify a very limited range of circumstances where qualified majority voting would apply generally in a Council, and it is unlikely to ever be evoked by a Planning Committee.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything further you require.

Yours sincerely,



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**Alison Allen**  
**Chief Executive**