

CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF DINAS A SIR CAERDYDD

STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE:

24th JUNE 2008

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER AGENDA ITEM: 7

REGISTRATION OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY - REVIEW

Reason for this Report

1. To provide the Committee with information on registrations of gifts and hospitality received by Members, to enable the Committee to review the same; and to consider any comments or observations it considers appropriate in this regard.

Background

2. Under the Members' and Officers' Codes of Conduct, Members and Officers are required to register any gifts, hospitality or other benefits where the value of the item or benefits exceeds an amount determined by the Council from time to time. Employees are additionally required to obtain formal authorisation from the Council before accepting gifts, hospitality or other benefits (Members' Code of Conduct¹ Part 4 paragraph 17; Employees' Code of Conduct paragraph 8; and Guidance issued by the Council under the Code of Conduct for Members and Employees on Hospitality, Gifts and Other Benefits – 'the Council's Guidance').
3. The Standards and Ethics Committee's terms of reference include the role of advising the Council on the content and implementation of its Codes of Conduct. At its meetings on 5th June 2007, 17th July 2007 and 18th September 2007, the Committee considered the Council's thresholds for registration of gifts and hospitality; and on 18th September 2007 resolved to recommend to Council the reduction of the threshold to £25 (in line with the threshold set for all local authorities in England by the Standards Board for England).
4. On 18th October 2007 the Council considered this matter and resolved to reduce the threshold for registration of gifts and hospitality to £25, in accordance with the Committee's recommendation. The Council's Guidance was amended accordingly.

¹ The new Members' Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 15th May 2008 contains essentially the same provisions in this respect (but not identical) to those contained in the previous Code.

5. At the same time as recommending the reduced threshold (on 18th September 2007), the Standards and Ethics Committee resolved to review this matter by considering a six monthly report summarising details of registrations of gifts and hospitality received by Members following the reduction of the threshold to £25. This report presents information for purposes of such review.

Issues

6. Information obtained from the Council's Clerk to the Council, who holds on behalf of the Monitoring Officer the register of Members' Gifts and Hospitality, and the Protocol Office (responsible for administrative support to the Mayoralty), indicates the following registrations during the 6 month period following the reduction of the threshold for the registration of gifts and hospitality to £25 (ie. the period from 18th October 2007 to 18th April 2008):

	Date	Councillor	Provided By	Details
1.	24/10/07	Elgan Morgan	South Wales Echo	Echo Business Awards Luncheon
2.	25/10/07	Woodman	Cardiff and District Hoteliers Association	Cardiff Hoteliers Ball and Dinner at Hilton Hotel
3.	26/10/07	Bird	Chairman of Monmouth	Civic Heads Dinner – Dinner
4.	1/11/07	Bird	Rotary Club of Cardiff	90 th Anniversary Dinner – Dinner
5.	2/11/07	Bird	Wales Care Awards	Gala Dinner – Dinner
6.	5/11/07	Berman	Pete Thomas, Instant Portrait	Framed picture of formal cutting of turf ceremony at Cardiff Football Club
7.	8/11/07	Berman	UWIC	Dinner/drinks reception with speech from Dr Stephen Monaghan on Healthy Cities
8.	9/11/08	Griffiths	Angel Hotel	United Services Mess Anniversary Dinner – Dinner
9.	9/11/07	Bird	Mayor of Rhondda	Civic Heads Dinner – Dinner
10.	13/11/07	Bird	Football Association of Wales	Presentation Evening – Dinner
11.	17/11/07	Hyde	Football Association of Wales	3 tickets for Wales –v- Ireland football match
12.	17/11/07	Jerrett	Football Association of Wales	2 tickets for Wales –v- Ireland football match
13.	17/11/07	Michael	Football Association of Wales	2 tickets for Wales –v- Ireland football match

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14.	17/11/07	Woodman	McDonalds via Effective Communication, Sophia House, 28 Cathedral Road	2 tickets for Wales –v- Ireland football match plus lunch at McDonalds, Queen Street
15.	17/11/07	Bird	Football Association of Wales	Wales-v-Rep of Ireland Football Match - Match Ticket and other hospitality
16.	18/11/07	Berman	Oberbürgermeister Dr Wolfgang Schuster	On the occasion of a study visit to Stuttgart to see first hand different residual waste treatment plants, the following hospitality was provided by the City of Stuttgart: 3 nights accommodation, meals x 4 and tickets for a concert by Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra
17.	18/11/07	Elgan Morgan	Oberbürgermeister Dr Wolfgang Schuster	On the occasion of a study visit to Stuttgart to see first hand different residual waste treatment plants, the following hospitality was provided by the City of Stuttgart: 3 nights accommodation, meals x 4 and tickets for a concert by Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra
18.	23/11/07	Griffiths	CIA	Western Mail Welsh Woman of the Year Awards – Dinner
19.	23/11/07	Woodman	Western Mail and Echo	Awards Ceremony and Dinner, Welsh Woman of the Year
20.	24/11/07	Bird	WRU	Prince William Cup-Wales-v-South Africa - Match Ticket and other hospitality
21.	24/11/07	Howells	Welsh Rugby Union	Attend Wales V South Africa Rugby match at Millennium Stadium with pre and post match hospitality x 2
22.	25/11/07	Bird	St John Ambulance	Gala Concert – Concert Ticket
23.	26/11/07	Bird	Cardiff Business Club	Lecture & Dinner – Dinner
24.	27/11/07	Bird	Cardiff University	Dinner in honour of Sir Martin Evans – Dinner
25.	29/11/07	Bird	Lord Mayor of Swansea	Civic Heads Dinner – Dinner
26.	1/12/07	Berman	2007 Wales Rally GB	Super Special Stage (including buffet)
27.	1/12/07	Woodman	Panasonic/Matsushita Electric Ltd	Dinner and Theatre Ticket for “The Producers” at Millennium Centre
28.	6/12/07	Berman	Wales Quality Awards	Attending dinner and presenting the certificates to the winners of the assessor programme
29.	6/12/07	Bird	Wales Quality Awards	Awards Dinner – Dinner
30.	11/12/07	Bird	CLIC Sargant	Christmas Concert – Concert Ticket
31.	12/12/07	Bird	Lord’s Taverners	Christmas Luncheon – Luncheon

	Date	Councillor	Provided By	Details
32.	12/12/07	Bird	Lord's Taverners	Christmas Luncheon – Raffle Prize: flights to New York or Miami
33.	10/01/08	Berman	WLGA/North of England Education Conference	Attend the Gala Dinner to give an address welcoming the speakers and delegates to the conference
34.	14/01/08	Bird	Cardiff Business Club	Lecture & Dinner – Dinner
35.	16/01/08	Bird	Archbishop of Corfu	Courtesy Call – Religious Icon
36.	28/01/08	Berman	Cardiff Business Club	Reception/Lecture and Dinner with guest speaker Steve Holliday, CEx National Grid Plc, St Davids Spa and Hotel
37.	2/02/08	Howells	WRU/RFU	Cllr and guest, in capacity as a Director of the Millennium Stadium Plc, to attend the England V Wales rugby match at Twickenham with pre and post match hospitality. This followed a Board Meeting of Millennium Stadium Plc.
38.	7/02/08	Griffiths	WAG	Embassy of Japan – Dinner
39.	7-10/02/08	Berman	International Motor Sports/City of Karlstad	Various hospitality provided during visit to Karstad to observe the operation of the Swedish Rally and learn the benefits that could accrue for Cardiff of moving Wales Rally GB to a one-centre operation – including flights, accommodation, meals and appropriate outdoor clothing for viewing rally.
40.	7-10/02/08	Howells	Andrew Coe Chief Executive International Motorsports Ltd	Various hospitality provided during visit to Karstad to observe the operation of the Swedish Rally and learn the benefits that could accrue for Cardiff of moving Wales Rally GB to a one-centre operation – including flights, accommodation, meals and appropriate outdoor clothing for viewing rally.
41.	8/02/08	Griffiths	Cardiff Castle	Host Japanese Delegation Dinner
42.	9/02/08	Bird	WRU	Wales-v-Scotland Rugby Match - Match Ticket and other hospitality
43.	12/02/08	Griffiths	CIA	Holiday on Ice performance
44.	12/02/08	Bird	Cardiff Business School	MBA Dinner – Dinner
45.	15/02/08	Bird	Chair of Carmarthenshire	Civic Heads Dinner – Dinner
46.	16/02/08	Bird	WRU	Wales-v-Italy Rugby Match - Match Ticket & other hospitality
47.	16/02/08	Bird	Arthritis Research Council	St Valentines Ball – Dinner & Ball
48.	18/02/08	Bird	Catenian Association	1000 th meeting Celebration Dinner – Dinner

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49.	18/02/08	Berman	Cardiff Business Club	Reception/Lecture and Dinner with guest speaker Shami Chakrabarti CBE, St Davids Hotel and Spa
50.	22/02/08	Woodman	UWIC	Graduation lunch at Hilton Hotel
51.	23/02/08	Howells	David Pickering Chairman WRU	Cllr and guest, in capacity as a Director of the Millennium Stadium Plc, to attend the Wales V Italy rugby match at Millennium Stadium with pre and post match hospitality.
52.	23/02/08	Woodman	BBC Cymru Wales	Wales V Italy Rugby Match with pre match reception and buffet x2 match tickets x2 and post match reception x2
53.	26/02/08	Bird	Cardiff University	Postgraduate Dinner – Dinner
54.	29/02/08	Woodman	WLGA	Excellence Wales Awards x 4 Dinner at St Davids Hotel x 1
55.	29/02/08	Berman	WLGA/Welsh Assembly Government	Excellence Wales Dinner and Award Ceremony, St Davids Hotel and Spa
56.	1/03/08	Bird	BBC	St David's Day Concert – Concert Ticket
57.	1/03/08	Howells	Nigel Wood Chief Executive Rugby Football League	Cllr Howells in capacity as Executive Member responsible for sport, to attend the Leeds Rhinos V Melbourne Storm rugby league match with pre and post match hospitality
58.	5/03/08	Woodman	UWIC	1 ticket for performance of Animal Farm by year 2 students
59.	6/03/08	Bird	International Women's Day	Dinner – Dinner
60.	8/03/08	Bird	Royal Welsh Regiment	St David's Day Dinner – Dinner
61.	9/3/08	Bird	Chairman of Caerphilly	Civic Heads Dinner – Dinner
62.	15/3/08	Bird	WRU	Wales-v-France Rugby – Match Ticket & other hospitality
63.	15/3/08	Berman	WRU	Wales V France Rugby 2 tickets for the pre match lunch/rugby match/tea
64.	15/3/08	Howells	David Pickering Chairman WRU	Cllr and guest, in capacity as a Director of the Millennium Stadium Plc, to attend the Wales V France rugby match at Millennium Stadium with pre and post match hospitality.
65.	16/3/08	Bird	Seafarers	Charity Concert - Raffle Prize-2 tickets for Dinner at Jurys Hotel
66.	15/4/08	Bird	Chairman of Powys	Civic Heads Dinner – Dinner
67.	17/4/08	Bird	Mayor of Newport	Civic Heads Dinner – Dinner
68.	18/4/08	Bird	Mayor of Vale	Civic Heads Dinner - Dinner

7. The Committee may wish to compare the information set out in paragraph 6 above with information on registrations during the preceding 6 month period (ie. from 17th April 2007 to 17th October 2007, during which the thresholds were £125 for gifts; and £190 for hospitality and other benefits), which is as follows:

	Date	Councillor	Provided By	Details
1.	2/6/07	Woodman	Football Association of Wales	4 x tickets for Wales V Czech Republic 4 x pre-match hospitality
2.	14/6/07	Robson	BBC Wales	2 x tickets for Cardiff Singer of the World 2007 with reception
3.	5/7/07	Stephens	Vice Governor of Fujian Province, China	Wall plaque
4.	9/07/07	Woodman	Delegation from Xiamen	Collection of stamps, silk scarf, DVD
5.	12/07/07	Woodman	UWIC	Fellows Dinner + guest, St Davids Hotel and Spa
6.	5/8/07	Woodman	Graham Rowlands Consultancy	4 x tickets for Community Shield Match Chelsea V Manchester United
7.	15/09/07	Goodway	Rugby World Cup Limited	Ticket and Hospitality for Wales V Australia World Cup Fixture at the Millennium Stadium
8.	22/09/07	Griffiths	Eve Appeal	Charity Dinner
9.	6/10/07	Griffiths	Wales Millennium Stadium	Semi Final of Rugby World Cup

8. The Committee will note that, following the reduction of the threshold to £25, the number of registrations during a six month period has increased from 9 to 68. The Committee may wish to consider the number of registrations in context of information supplied by local authorities in 3 other major cities - Birmingham City Council, Manchester City Council and the Greater London Authority (presented to the Committee in July and September 2007), which is as follows:

	Number of registrations over a 12 month period*
Birmingham	258
Manchester	28
Greater London Authority	246

* Please note well that the figures in the above table relate to a 12 month period.

9. The Committee is invited to review the information presented in this report and to make any comments it considers appropriate in this regard.

ADVICE

This report has been prepared by the Monitoring Officer. It contains all the information necessary to allow Members to arrive at a reasonable view, taking into account the advice contained in this section.

Legal Implications

The relevant legal provisions and the implications of these are contained within the body of this report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the information supplied on registration of Members' gifts and hospitality during the 6 month period following the reduction on 18 October 2007 of the threshold for registration to £25, and makes any comments it considers appropriate.

Kate Berry
Monitoring Officer and City & County Solicitor
17 June 2008

Background papers

Monitoring Officer's Reports to Standards & Ethics Committee 'Registration of Gifts and Hospitality' dated 22 May 2007 (considered at the Committee meeting on 05/06/07); 5 October 2006; 17 July 2007; and 18 September 2007; and minutes in respect thereof. Report to Council 'Registration of Gifts and Hospitality' dated 18 October 2007; and minutes in respect thereof.
Cardiff Council Members' Code of Conduct
Cardiff Council Employees' Code of Conduct
Cardiff Council Guidance Issued under the Code of Conduct for Members and Employees 'Hospitality, Gifts and Other Benefits' (October 2007)