

Consultation on Designated Persons Order (Number 1)

Consultation Response Form

Please note that the consultation ends on 21/11/2013

Name:	Robert Robins
Your organisation:	Flintshire County Council
Your address:	County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6NR
Email/telephone no.:	robert.robins@flintshire.gov.uk 01352 702320

Please feel free to make any comment you wish on this document, the proposed designated bodies, issues highlighted in the Consultation Document. However, we would particularly welcome comments on the attached questions:

Do you agree that the following bodies should be designated in the first Order? (please tick)	Agree	Disagree
Local Health Boards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NHS Trusts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire and Rescue Authorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National Park Authorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Registered Social Landlords	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Third sector organisations that are delivering services to the public.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How could Town and Community Councils best participate in local collaborative scrutiny? Is it necessary to designate them?		
It is not considered necessary or appropriate to designate Town & Community Councils. Their members are democratically elected and there are already close		

working arrangements which include regular meetings of the Flintshire County Forum to discuss matters of mutual interest. It should be left to individual Town or Community Councils to contribute or participate in local collaborative scrutiny as and when they wish to do so and where their local knowledge will provide added value to the scrutiny process.

If you disagree with a body being designated please tell us about it below.

<i>Designated body</i>	<i>Your concerns</i>

Do you think there are other organisations that should be recommended for designation in the *first* Order? Please say why.

<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Reason for recommended designation</i>
Further and higher education bodies	Flintshire has already established mutually beneficial, collaborative scrutiny relationships with the local college of further education (Deeside College, now Coleg Cambria) and Glyndwr University and would wish to continue that relationship within the framework of the Local Governemnt (Wales) 2011.
Public Service broadcasters	These are publically funded bodies which can greatly influence how the public, with whom we are engaged, perceive the Authority. Whilst it would not be appropriate to fetter journalistic freedom, it would be indicative of a mature relationship if public service broadcasting

	executives could be held to account for how they operate within and portray an area.
--	--

Do you think there are other organisations that should be recommended for designation in any <i>future</i> Order? Please say why.	
<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Reason for recommended designation</i>
Commercial bus and train operators within a county/county borough council's area	Any organisation which receives public money for the delivery of a service, even if it is a commercial organisation should be able to account locally for their services. This would not impinge upon commercial services, but would give a voice to local people.

You may wish to offer a view on the following issues outlined in the Consultation Document .	
<i>Issue</i>	<i>Your concerns</i>
<i>Maintaining clear accountability</i>	<p>In Flintshire we have a long tradition of inviting public bodies to our Overview & Scrutiny committees. This has enabled our Members to gain a greater insight into particular issues. It has also meant that the representatives of those services are able to benefit from the views expressed by a wide cross-section of people who, by their very nature, are committed enthusiasts for the delivery of high quality, responsive public services.</p> <p>Early on we invited representative of the former ELWa to attend a meeting of the Lifelong Learning O&SC and have also had all of the bodies included within the designated persons proposals as well as the Police & Crime Commissioner at scrutiny meetings. This has worked well and we would hope that putting the relationship on a 'stronger' statutory basis than s 20(2) (e) would not diminish the co-operative and collaborative nature of our scrutiny. We are keen to be and to remain 'critical friends', which implies a closeness of relationship.</p>
<i>Forward work programmes – ensuring impact is maximised</i>	<p>Within North Wales we established a scrutiny officers network some 10 years ago. This has proved invaluable in promoting a close working relationship amongst the officers who have been able to bring shared knowledge and experience to the attention of their Members and thus ensure that an undue burden is not placed on organisations which cross boundaries. Proportionality has always been a feature of our effective scrutiny, but there will be occasions when a body such as the Local Health Board needs to attend</p>

	<p>each local authority on an individual basis in order to engage them effectively.</p>
<p><i>Capacity, capability and co-option</i></p>	<p>The contribution to effective scrutiny which has been made by the statutory co-optees on Lifelong Learning has shown how the knowledge and life experience of people who are not members of the committee through the democratic process can enrich its collective knowledge. There is scope to make greater use of the knowledge of both lay and professional people within Overview & Scrutiny. The role of the town or community councillor, with their indepth knowledge of 'their patch' is a good case in point (see earlier comments about town and community councillors)</p>

We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues or concerns which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

The scrutiny of designated persons is an important step in making Overview & Scrutiny more relevant to the general public with whom we wish to engage. We already know how effective Overview & Scrutiny can be in holding the Executive to account and making services run better. However, until there is a problem, such as a service failure, the public with their expectations that things will be run effectively, are not likely to want to become engaged. When there is a problem, the public are able to approach their local member - the organisation has a 'local face'. The majority of public service providers are not locally elected and thus , by their nature, tend to be 'faceless'. Greater scrutiny powers brings more public services into the public arena which can only be beneficial, as long as it is done responsibly and propotionately.

Responses to consultations may be made public – on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to be kept confidential, please tick here: