



# Janet Finch-Saunders AM/AC

Assembly Member for Aberconwy  
Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Local Government

Aelod Cynulliad dros Aberconwy  
Ysgrifennydd yr Wrthblaid ar gyfer Llywodraeth Leol

**Cllr Gareth Jones OBE,**  
**Leader, Conwy County Borough Council,**  
*By email*

5<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
Ref: TYH/JFS/HM

Office of Janet Finch-Saunders AM,  
29 Madoc Street,  
Llandudno,  
LL30 2TL.  
01492 871 198

**Re: Item 8/8a Environmental Enforcement**

National Assembly for Wales,  
Cardiff Bay,  
CF99 1NA.  
0300 200 7454

Dear Leader, Gareth,

[janet.finch-saunders@assembly.wales](mailto:janet.finch-saunders@assembly.wales)

I am writing to you ahead of the Cabinet meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018, with particular reference to Item 8/8a: 'Environmental Enforcement Contract Extension'.

This matter was considered by the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018, at which I understand it was decided, via the casting vote of the Chair, to support the officer recommendation to extend the current contract with Kingdom Security Ltd by 1 year, and to establish a Task and Finish Group to look into other options for this service.

You will recall the many conversations we have had on this issue, and I would like to place on record my thanks to you for your work in this regard to date – for example, in ensuring that uniforms are worn by enforcement officers.

Regrettably, I am still approached on a regular basis by local residents and visitors to the area who have concerns about the manner in which enforcement action is being undertaken on behalf of the Council. Further, many within the hospitality and wider business industries have expressed their apprehensions to me that the current image and culture being portrayed through such overzealous enforcement is not the one that they would wish for Conwy County Borough to foster – particularly in those areas where tourism plays such a key part of our local economy.

I note that other local authorities across North Wales have taken steps to discontinue services provided by this same company, and further note that concerns in relation to enforcement measures have been raised with the Council over many years – this is not a recent issue.

I know that, as Leader of the relatively new Administration in Conwy County Borough Council, you have worked to foster a culture of consultation and proactive working, and feel that this is now a further opportunity for the Administration to show that they are listening to our residents and





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willing to act accordingly. If favourable alternatives can be found, then I know the whole community will be happy to work with the Council on this matter.

I note that a proposal was put forwards by Cllr Greg Robbins at the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee for the contract to be extended by six months, and for a Task and Finish Group to be established to report during this time with costed alternatives. I would like to register my support for the proposal made by Cllr Robbins in this regard – and note his comments on the need for a firm timeframe within which the Task and Finish Group would report.

One such alternative would be to bring enforcement in-house – for example, as undertaken by Chester West and Chester Council<sup>1</sup>. However, I am aware that bringing the service in-house is not the only potential option, and realise that cost implications must also be taken into account. The findings, therefore, of such a Task and Finish Group would be of much interest to myself and many of my constituents.

I wrote, ahead of the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee meeting, to all Members of that Committee, and enclose a copy of this correspondence<sup>2</sup> for your reference. I would be most grateful if you could take the time to read this, as it outlines my continued concerns on this matter and in regards to the officer recommendation. Additionally, I would be much obliged if you could kindly ensure that both this letter and the enclosed are read out at the Cabinet meeting in relation to this Item (7/7a).

To reiterate my concluding words to the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee: A clean and safe environment for everyone is of utmost importance, but the manner in which enforcement action is undertaken must ensure that residents and visitors alike feel secure and unintimidated on our high streets, beaches and public places. Everyone should be able to enjoy a safe, clean and positive experience in and around Conwy County.

I am firmly of the opinion that the time has come for the Council to look at other options and methods for dealing with environmental enforcement, and am pleased to note the comments of the Cabinet Member in this regard that ***“this is an opportunity for change...so that a better solution can be sought”***.

Yours sincerely,

**Janet Finch-Saunders AM/AC**

<sup>1</sup> Full policy here:

[https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/Documents/your\\_council/policies/Enforcement%20Policy\\_1719\\_web%20res.pdf](https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/Documents/your_council/policies/Enforcement%20Policy_1719_web%20res.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Letter to Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018

