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*Dr John Marek
Forward Wales
The Gables
43 Percy Road
Wrexham LL13 7EF*

*The Secretary
Committee on Standards in Public Life
35 Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BQ*

26 September 2006

Dear Sir/Madam,

I enclose a copy of a letter I received from the Electoral Commission regarding an extension of the CSPL inquiry. I would like to comment on the following.

I am concerned that a difference is recognised between major political parties and those small parties such as Forward Wales with no paid employees and few resources. Small parties, with all the good will in the world, will make mistakes from time to time simply because of their lack of knowledge and expertise. This is not the case for the major parties.

Where political parties deliberately try to hide, or be economical with the truth, sanctions must be available to the Electoral Commission. But where mistakes are made by small parties without paid help (that is all work is done by voluntary workers) then such situations must be recognised within any scheme and penalties.

Yours sincerely



Dr John Marek
Conveyor Forward Wales

Leader
Forward Wales
The Gables
46 Percy Road
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15 August 2006

Dear Dr John Marek

We wrote to you in early June regarding the Commission's intention to seek views on the legal framework and operation of the regulatory and enforcement framework of the Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA).

As you may be aware, the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) launched its 11th Inquiry into the work of the Electoral Commission in February of this year and a significant number of political parties, academics and others have now submitted written and oral evidence relating to the PERA framework to the CSPL.

On reflection, therefore, we have concluded that the Commission will await the outcome of the CSPL's process before deciding whether and how to undertake our own consultation on these issues. If you have not yet submitted evidence to CSPL and wish to do so, we understand that the Committee are still prepared to take further written evidence up until the end of September. Further details relating to the CSPL Inquiry, and how to respond can be found on their website at www.public-standards.gov.uk.

As part of its continuing wider programme of work in the regulatory area the Commission is holding an international practitioner conference on effective regulation of political finances in September, and we have also commissioned a project to identify lessons that can be learned and best practice from other UK regulatory sectors.

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