



Delyth Jewell

Aelod Cynulliad dros Dwyrain De Cymru

—
Assembly Member for South Wales East

Sir Mark Sedwill
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS
United Kingdom

30th July 2019

Request for Investigation Into Possible Breach of Purdah Rules

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

I'm writing to you to request that you hold an immediate investigation into whether rules surrounding purdah have been broken in relation to the Brecon and Radnorshire by-election.

It would appear to me that the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Wales have broken Cabinet Office rules by using public resources for party political campaigning during an election period.

Prior to his visit to Wales on Tuesday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a fund of £300m for growth deals in the devolved nations.

This fund, which Mr Johnson insists is new money, includes resources for the Mid Wales Growth Deal – an area that includes Brecon and Radnorshire, where a by-election is due to take place on Thursday August 1st.

Further evidence that this announcement amounts to electioneering is provided in an article written by the Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns, in today's Western Mail, which includes reference to both the by-election and the funding announcement.

Guidance issued by the Cabinet Office to civil servants ahead of the 2017 General Election stated that: *"It is also a requirement of the Ministerial Code that Ministers must not use government resources for party political purposes and must uphold the political impartiality of the Civil Service."*

I suspect that the actions of the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Wales constitutes a breaking of the Ministerial Code and that the civil service may have therefore broken purdah rules by carrying out work in relation to the funding announcement on their behalf.

I request that an immediate investigation be conducted into whether purdah rules have been breached, whether the Cabinet Office ethics and propriety team was consulted before the funding announcement and how much public resources were spent accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

Delyth Jewell AM - Plaid Cymru Shadow Minister for International Relations

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