

G A Lawrence

Town Clerk's Department
City of London
Guildhall
PO Box 270
London
EC2P 2EJ

26 July 2013

Dear Ms Brook

Application for a Dispensation under Section 33 (2) of the Localism Act 2011 in relation to a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

1. I am an elected Member of the Court of Common Council for the Ward of Farringdon Without, which includes Smithfield Meat Market within its boundaries.
2. I am a wholesale meat trader at Smithfield Meat Market, with a lease for my premises from the City of London.
3. I am Chairman of the Smithfield Market Tenants' Association, representing the majority of the meat traders at Smithfield, comprising some 1,000 staff in total, employed in some 40 separate businesses.
4. The Market is a major employer in the Ward and accounts for a high proportion of those voting in Ward elections.

I am applying for a dispensation under Section 33 (2) of the Localism Act so that I may participate in discussion and voting on matters relating to my disclosable pecuniary interest on the following grounds

1. Under Section 33 (2) (c) – that the dispensation is in the interests of persons living (or in the City's case, living or working) in the authority's area.

and/or

2. Under Section 33 (2) (e) – that it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

I would like to point out that, as matters currently stand, I am prohibited from contributing to the work of the Court of Common Council and its committees on the matters I am most qualified to do so.

continued

It is a curious situation, for example, that Markets Committee carries out its business without the benefit of democratically elected members with first-hand knowledge and experience of a market that would be available if I, or one of my other Smithfield colleagues, were on the committee and able to fully participate. As I stated above, I represent most of the meat trading tenants at Smithfield, my pecuniary interest is dwarfed by the total of theirs.

For your information, it would be my wish to sit on Markets Committee when a vacancy becomes available. It is my understanding, having consulted Standing Orders and having checked with the City Solicitor, that there is nothing to bar me from being on the committee as long as I have disclosed any relevant pecuniary interest, but that without the dispensation I may not participate in discussion or voting on any matter relating to my pecuniary interest.

I would be grateful if my application could be considered and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

Gregory A Lawrence CC