

Committee: Dispensations Sub (Standards) Committee	Date: 18 September 2020
Subject: Requests for a Dispensation under the Corporation's approved Dispensations Policy	Public
Report of: Report of Town Clerk	For Decision
Report authors: Gemma Stokley Antoinette Duhaney	

Summary

This report set out details of one Member (Mark Bostock) who has requested a dispensation until March 2022 to speak and vote

- generally on fire safety issues and
- specifically on 'Fire Safety Improvement Works – Frobisher Crescent' to be discussed in the non-public part of the forthcoming Barbican Resident Committee meeting on 21.09.20

Recommendation

The Sub-Committee is asked to determine the application for a dispensation as detailed below.

Main Report

Background

1. One Member has submitted a request for a dispensation and the Standards Committee has requested that all such applications are accompanied by a covering report. This application is submitted in accordance with current dispensations policy (appendix 1). The statutory grounds for granting a dispensation under the Localism Act 2011, and the factors that your Sub-Committee should take into account when considering these applications, are set out and explained in that document.

The application

2. The full application for a dispensation is appended to this report as appendix 2
3. This covering report does not seek to include all of the information included within the application but provides a summary of the dispensation sought.
4. In summary, Mr Bostock confirms that he has the following "disclosable pecuniary interests" for the purpose of the Localism Act 2011 and that these interests have been published in his register of interests:

Leaseholder: 815 Frobisher Crescent

Specific considerations

- 5. Mr Bostock is a Common Councillor for Cripplegate Ward and a Member of a number of committees including the Markets Committee, the Planning and Transportation Committee, the Barbican Residential Committee and Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee.
- 6. Mr Bostock was previously granted the following dispensations
 - (a) To speak and vote on matters relating to the expansion of the City of London School for Girls for the period until final decisions are made by the Planning & Transportation Committee or for the remainder of the current term of office ending in March 2021, whichever is sooner.
 - (b) Reconfirmation of a Dispensation to speak on general housing matters, as identified in the dispensations policy, and also car parking spaces and private storage spaces, relating to Barbican residential estate until April 2020 insofar as those issues affect residents of the Barbican residential estate equally.
- 7. The Town Clerk is able to determine dispensations requests in respect of certain matters. However, this application must be determined by this Sub Committee.
- 8. As Barbican Residential Committee does not meet until 21st September, there is adequate time for the Sub Committee to consider this application and advise Mr Bostock of the outcome.

Conclusion

- 9. The Sub-Committee is asked to determine this application in accordance with the existing policy on the granting of dispensations.

Appendices

A Mark Bostock application

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REQUEST FOR A DISPENSATION TO SPEAK AND/OR VOTE WHERE A MEMBER / CO-OPTED MEMBER HAS A DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

The granting of dispensations is a function of the Standards Committee and its Dispensations Sub-Committee. Authority to grant some straightforward applications has also been delegated to the Town Clerk. You are advised to read the policy and guidance on the granting of dispensations before completing this form.

Please complete this form electronically and email it to declarations@cityoflondon.gov.uk. Alternatively, paper forms can be submitted to the Committee and Member Services Team in the Town Clerk's Department, but typed forms should be provided if at all possible. Please submit your application as soon as possible after becoming aware that a dispensation is required.

Name:

Date:

Dispensations available from the Town Clerk

I request a dispensation until the Ward elections in 2021 to enable me:

- to speak and vote on the setting of council tax
- to speak as a member of the public on planning applications
- to speak as a member of the public on licensing applications
- to speak on general housing matters

Please complete the rest of this form if you are applying for any other dispensation from the Standards Committee

Please describe the nature of the disclosable pecuniary interest that would otherwise prohibit you from speaking and/or voting:

- I confirm that this interest is already included in my register of interests, or
 I confirm that I will register this interest within 28 days

I request a dispensation to enable me to:

- speak
 vote

on the following matter(s):

Fire Safety in general

Specifically on 'Fire Safety Improvement Works – Frobisher Crescent' to be discussed in the non-public part of the forthcoming Barbican Resident Committee meeting

for a specific committee meeting or meetings, or for a specific period, as follows:

Fire Safety issues for my period in office (March 2022)

Specifically for the Monday 21 September Barbican Residential Committee meeting, non public agenda 22

Please provide any relevant information in support of your application, including a consideration of the statutory grounds for granting a dispensation (paragraph 13) and the additional factors (Appendix 3) set out in the policy:

N.B. If you are applying for a dispensation to vote please comment specifically on Appendix 3, paragraph (b), points (i)-(iv).

Fire Safety has been a particular issue for the Barbican and for Frobisher Crescent in particular. Residents of the 69 flats have discussed the issues on numerous occasions over the past three years. Several of these matters need to be raised in discussion on agenda 22.

So in applying for a dispensation to speak I believe I am well covered by the statutory grounds set out in paragraph 13(c). In terms of my request to vote I believe I am also well covered – Appendix 3, paragraph (b) points (i), (ii) and (iv).

I need to make clear that a refusal to grant me a dispensation to speak (and vote) will have the effect of disenfranchising my constituents in Frobisher Crescent (69 flats) on the important fire safety issues which they are currently facing.